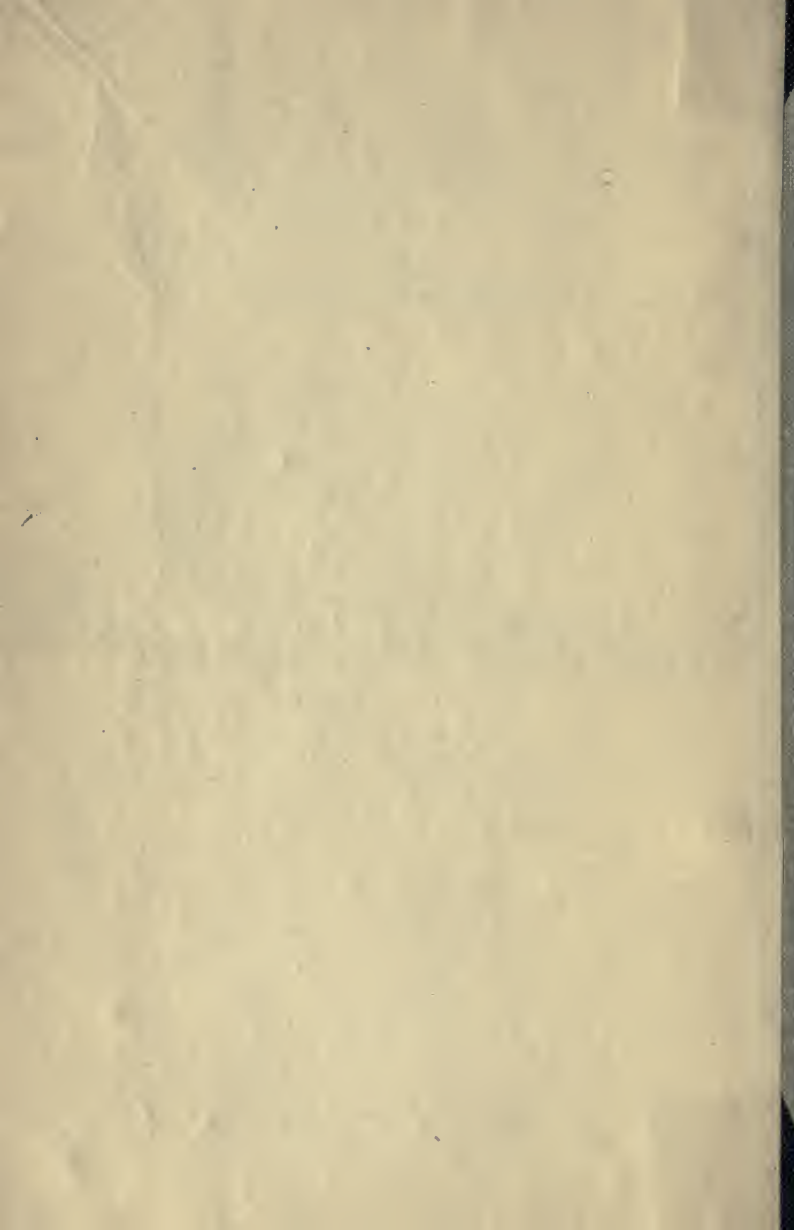


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Manchester City News

# ATHENÆUM ADDRESSES

1843-8, /

AND REPORT OF

THE SOIRÉE OF 1875.

[REPRINTED FROM THE MANCHESTER CITY NEWS.]

MANCHESTER:

PRINTED FOR THE DIRECTORS.

1875.

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## PREFATORY NOTE:

From 1843 to 1848, the Manchester Athenæum held yearly a festive gathering upon a scale of unusual magnitude, and on the 22nd of January, 1875, after an interval of more than a quarter of a century, a *soirée* on a similar basis was held to celebrate the reconstruction and renovation of the building which had been partially destroyed by fire some months previously. The present volume contains a record of the addresses of the seven presidents of these great meetings, together with a report of five of the more remarkable speeches at the earlier *soirées*, and of all the chief speeches at the *soirée* of 1875.

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ERRATUM.—In the speech of Mr. Emerson, page 93, seventeenth line, for "I have never been near them," read, "I have ever been near them."





ADDRESS  
OF  
CHARLES DICKENS,

PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST SOIREE, OCTOBER 5, 1843.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am sure I need scarcely tell you that I am very proud and happy; and that I take it as a great distinction to be asked to come amongst you, on an occasion such as this, when, even with the brilliant and beautiful spectacle which I see before me, I can hail it as the most brilliant and beautiful circumstance of all, that we assemble together here, even here, upon neutral ground, where we have no more knowledge of party difficulties, or public animosities between side and side, or between man and man, than if we were a public meeting in the commonwealth of Utopia.

Ladies and gentlemen, upon this and upon a hundred other grounds, this assembly is not less interesting to me, believe me—although, personally, almost a stranger here—than it is interesting to you; and I take it, that it is not of greater importance to all of us than it is to every man who has learned to know that he has an interest in

the moral and social elevation, the harmless relaxation, the peace, happiness, and improvement of the community at large. Not even those who saw the first foundation of your Athenæum laid, and watched its progress, as I know they did, almost as tenderly as if it were the progress of a living creature, until it reared its beautiful front, an honour to the town—not even they, nor even you who, within its walls, have tasted its usefulness, and put it to the proof, have greater reason, I am persuaded, to exult in its establishment, or to hope that it may thrive and prosper, than scores of thousands at a distance, who—whether consciously or unconsciously, matters not—have, in the principle of its success and bright example, a deep and personal concern.

It well becomes, particularly well becomes, this enterprising town, this little world of labour, that she should stand out foremost in the foremost rank in such a cause. It well becomes her, that, among her numerous and noble public institutions, she should have a splendid temple sacred to the education and improvement of a large class of those who, in their various useful stations, assist in the production of our wealth, and in rendering her name famous through the world. I think it is grand to know that, while her factories re-echo with the clanking of stupendous engines, and the whirl and rattle of machinery, the immortal mechanism of God's own hand, the mind, is not forgotten in the din and uproar, but is lodged and tended in a palace of its own. That it is a structure deeply fixed and rooted in the public spirit of this place, and built to last, I have no more doubt, judging from the spectacle I see before me, and from what I know of its brief history, than I have of the reality of these walls that hem us in, and the pillars that spring up about us.

You are perfectly well aware, I have no doubt, that the Athenæum was projected at a time when commerce was in a vigorous and flourishing condition, and when



those classes of society to which it particularly addresses itself were fully employed, and in the receipt of regular incomes. A season of depression almost without a parallel ensued, and large numbers of young men employed in warehouses and offices suddenly found their occupation gone, and themselves reduced to very straitened and penurious circumstances. This altered state of things led, as I am told, to the compulsory withdrawal of many of the members, to a proportionate decrease in the expected funds, and to the incurrence of a debt of £3,000. By the very great zeal and energy of all concerned, and by the liberality of those to whom they applied for help, that debt is now in rapid course of being discharged. A little more of the same indefatigable exertion on the one hand, and a little more of the same community of feeling upon the other, and there will be no such thing; the figures will be blotted out for good and all, and, from that time, the Athenæum may be said to belong to you, and to your heirs for ever.

But, ladies and gentlemen, at all times, now in its most thriving, and in its least flourishing condition—here, with its cheerful rooms, its pleasant and instructive lectures, its improving library of 6,000 volumes, its classes for the study of the foreign languages, elocution and music; its opportunities of discussion and debate, of healthful bodily exercise, and, though last not least—for by this I set great store, as a very novel and excellent provision—its opportunities of blameless, rational enjoyment, here it is, open to every youth and man in this great town, accessible to every bee in this vast hive, who, for all these benefits, and the inestimable ends to which they lead, can set aside one sixpence weekly. I do look upon the reduction of the subscription, and upon the fact that the number of members has considerably more than doubled within the last twelve months, as strides in the path of the very best civilisation, and chapters of rich promise in the history of mankind.

I do not know whether, at this time of day, and with such a prospect before us, we need trouble ourselves very much to rake up the ashes of the dead-and-gone objections that were wont to be urged by men of all parties against institutions such as this, whose interests we are met to promote; but their philosophy was always to be summed up in the unmeaning application of one short sentence. How often have we heard from a large class of men wise in their generation, who would really seem to be born and bred for no other purpose than to pass into currency counterfeit and mischievous scraps of wisdom, as it is the sole pursuit of some other criminals to utter base coin—how often have we heard from them, as an all-convincing argument, that “a little learning is a dangerous thing?” Why, a little hanging was considered a very dangerous thing, according to the same authorities, with this difference, that, because a little hanging was dangerous, we had a great deal of it; and, because a little learning was dangerous, we were to have none at all. Why, when I hear such cruel absurdities gravely reiterated, I do sometimes begin to doubt whether the parrots of society are not more pernicious to its interests than its birds of prey. I should be glad to hear such people’s estimate of the comparative danger of “a little learning” and a vast amount of ignorance; I should be glad to know which they consider the most prolific parent of misery and crime. Descending a little lower in the social scale, I should be glad to assist them in their calculations, by carrying them into certain gaols and nightly refuges I know of, where my own heart dies within me, when I see thousands of immortal creatures condemned, without alternative or choice, to tread, not what our great poet calls the “primrose path” to the everlasting bonfire, but one of jagged flints and stones, laid down by brutal ignorance, and held together, like the solid rocks, by years of this most wicked axiom.

Would we know from any honourable body of

merchants, upright in deed and thought, whether they would rather have ignorant or enlightened persons in their own employment? Why, we have had their answer in this building; we have it in this company; we have it emphatically given in the munificent generosity of your own merchants of Manchester, of all sects and kinds, when this establishment was first proposed. But are the advantages derivable by the people from institutions such as this, only of a negative character? If a little learning be an innocent thing, has it no distinct, wholesome, and immediate influence upon the mind? The old doggerel rhyme, so often written in the beginning of books, says that

When house and lands are gone and spent,  
Then learning is most excellent;

but I should be strongly disposed to reform the adage, and say that

Though house and lands be never got,  
Learning can give what they *cannot*.

And this I know, that the first unpurchasable blessing earned by every man who makes an effort to improve himself in such a place as the Athenæum, is self-respect—an inward dignity of character, which, once acquired and righteously maintained, nothing—no, not the hardest drudgery, nor the direst poverty—can vanquish. Though he should find it hard for a season even to keep the wolf—hunger—from his door, let him but once have chased the dragon—ignorance—from his hearth, and self-respect and hope are left him. You could no more deprive him of those sustaining qualities by loss or destruction of his worldly goods, than you could, by plucking out his eyes, take from him an internal consciousness of the bright glory of the sun.

The man who lives from day to day by the daily exercise in his sphere of hands or head, and seeks to improve

himself in such a place as the Athenæum, acquires for himself that property of soul which has in all times upheld struggling men of every degree, but self-made men especially and always. He secures to himself that faithful companion which, while it has ever lent the light of its countenance to men of rank and eminence who have deserved it, has ever shed its brightest consolations on men of low estate and almost hopeless means. It took its patient seat beside Sir Walter Raleigh in his dungeon-study in the Tower; it laid its head upon the block with More; but it did not disdain to watch the stars with Ferguson, the shepherd's boy; it walked the streets in mean attire with Crabbe; it was a poor barber here in Lancashire with Arkwright; it was a tallow chandler's son with Franklin; it worked at shoemaking with Bloomfield in his garret; it followed the plough with Burns; and, high above the noise of loom and hammer, it whispers courage even at this day in ears I could name in Sheffield and in Manchester.

The more the man who improves his leisure in such a place learns, the better, gentler, kinder man he must become. When he knows how much great minds have suffered for the truth in every age and time, and to what dismal persecutions opinion has been exposed, he will become more tolerant of other men's belief in all matters, and will incline more leniently to their sentiments when they chance to differ from his own. Understanding that the relations between himself and his employers involve a mutual duty and responsibility, he will discharge his part of the implied contract cheerfully, satisfactorily, and honourably; for the history of every useful life warns him to shape his course in that direction.

The benefits he acquires in such a place are not of a selfish kind, but extend themselves to his home, and to those whom it contains. Something of what he hears or reads within such walls can scarcely fail to become at times a topic of discourse by his own fireside, nor can it

ever fail to lead to larger sympathies with man, and to a higher veneration for the great Creator of all the wonders of this universe. It appeals to his home and his homely feeling in other ways; for at certain times he carries there his wife and daughter, or his sister, or, possibly, some bright-eyed acquaintance of a more tender description. Judging from what I see before me, I think it is very likely; I am sure I would if I could. He takes her there to enjoy a pleasant evening, to be gay and happy. Sometimes it may possibly happen that he dates his tenderness from the Athenæum. I think that is a very excellent thing, too, and not the least among the advantages of the institution. In any case, I am sure the number of bright eyes and beaming faces which grace this meeting to-night by their presence, will never be among the least of its excellences in my recollection.

Ladies and gentlemen, I shall not easily forget this scene, the pleasing task your favour has devolved upon me, or the strong and inspiring confirmation I have to-night, of all the hopes and reliances I have ever placed upon institutions of this nature. In the latter point of view—in their bearing upon this latter point—I regard them as of great importance, deeming that the more intelligent and reflective society in the mass becomes, and the more readers there are, the more distinctly writers of all kinds will be able to throw themselves upon the truthful feeling of the people, and the more honoured and the more useful literature must be. At the same time, I must confess that, if there had been an Athenæum, and if the people had been readers, years ago, some leaves of dedication in your library, of praise of patrons which was very cheaply bought, very dearly sold, and very marketably haggled for by the groat, would be blank leaves, and posterity might probably have lacked the information that certain monsters of virtue ever had existence. But it is upon a much better and wider scale, let me say it once again—it is in the effect of such



institutions upon the great social system, and the peace and happiness of mankind, that I delight to contemplate them; and, in my heart, I am quite certain that long after your institution, and others of the same nature, have crumbled into dust, the noble harvest of the seed sown in them will shine out brightly in the wisdom, the mercy, and the forbearance of another race.

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ADDRESS  
OF  
MR. DISRAELI, M.P.,

OCTOBER 3, 1844.

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[The second soirée was held on Thursday, the 3rd of October, 1844, and was presided over by Mr. Disraeli. The other speakers were Mr. Cobden, Lord John Manners, M.P.; the Hon. George Sydney Smythe, M.P.; Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P.; and Mr. Rowland Hill. The audience numbered three thousand two hundred. Mr. Disraeli, who was not then a Right Honourable, had been present at the first soirée—a fact to which he refers at the opening of his remarks. His address was as follows:—]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—When I last had the honour of addressing the members of the Manchester Athenæum they were struggling for the existence of their institution. It was a critical moment in their fortunes. They had incurred a considerable debt in its establishment; the number of its members had gradually, and even for some years, considerably decreased;

and, in appealing to the sympathies of the community, they were, unfortunately, appealing to those who were themselves but slowly recovering from a period of severe and lengthened suffering. A year has elapsed, and the efforts that you thus made to extricate yourselves from those difficulties may now be fairly examined. That considerable debt has been liquidated; the number of your members has been trebled—I believe quadrupled; and I am happy to say that your fortunes have rallied while that suffering and surrounding community once more meet together in prosperity and success. I think it not inopportune, at this moment of security and serene fortune, that we should clearly understand the object for which this great struggle has been made. Under circumstances which, if not desperate, filled you with the darkest gloom, you resolved like men to exert your utmost energies; you applied yourselves to those difficulties with manly energy—with manly discretion. Not too confident in yourselves, you appealed, and appealed successfully, to the softer sex, who you thought would sympathise with an institution intended to humanise and refine. *Dux femina facti* might indeed be the motto of your institution, for it was mainly by such influence that you obtained the result which we now celebrate. But if the object which you had at stake was of so great importance, if it justified exertions so remarkable, made too at a moment when energy was doubly valuable, because you were dispirited, it, I think, would not be unwise for us now to inquire what was the object for which we then exerted ourselves, whether it were one which justified that great sacrifice, and, if it were, to ascertain why it was ever imperilled. To-night we are honoured by many, who, like myself, are strangers, except in feeling, to your community. We are honoured too by the presence of deputations from many societies in this county and the North of England, who acknowledge a



sympathy and an analogy of pursuit with the Athenæum of Manchester. It will be well then to place before briefly for their instruction, and perhaps it may not be without profit to remind you, what that institution is that you have struggled to uphold, but the existence of which was once endangered.

I think it is seven or eight years ago that some of the leading members of your community, remembering perhaps that there was a time when they regretted that for them such advantages did not exist, thought they would establish in this great city some institution that might offer to the youth of Manchester relaxation which might elevate, and a distraction which would save them from a senseless dissipation. They thought that the time had arrived when a duty devolved on those who took a leading part in communities that they should sympathise with the wants of the rising race, and therefore they resolved to establish an institution where those advantages that I have referred to might be supplied. With these views they resolved, in the first instance, that some place should be supplied where the youth of Manchester might become perfectly acquainted with the passing mind and passions and feelings and intelligence of the age. That idea was the foundation of your newsroom. They rightly understood that the newspaper was the most effective arm of the press. It may indeed be considered as the infantry of the press. It is not a complete battalia—you require also ordnance and artillery, a brilliant cavalry; above all, you require the staff of the commander-in-chief, that, without absolutely or actively interfering in the fray, surveys all that occurs, and is ready at all times to apply itself to the quarter which requires counsel; but still you may consider the journal as the most efficient arm of the press. With these views they furnished a chamber in which the members of the Athenæum might perfectly be acquainted, in the perusal of the chief journals of the empire, with all that was passing in

news

the country, all that was agitating and interesting the public mind—which might supply them with that information, and guide them in forming those opinions, which it is the duty of every citizen of a free community to be acquainted with and to entertain. But, conscious that, however qualified the journal is to stimulate curiosity, to assist investigation, to guide opinion, the knowledge of that individual that is limited only by the daily press is in danger of becoming superficial, you thought that the members of this institution should have some means of consulting the more mature opinions, the more accurate researches of the literary mind of this and other countries, and wisely you made the chamber in which they might read the newspaper an ante-room only to the library. You formed a collection which is now not contemptible in numbers, for you may count it by thousands. What, however, is not so great as many of you must desire, which, in passing, I may be permitted to say is no disgrace to it, because it is a deficiency which is shared by every great collection in this country, and I believe in Europe, but which I should be glad and you would be proud to be supplied in Manchester—I mean is that department which may be described as a commercial library. Manchester, that was once merely an assemblage of manufacturers, is now a great mercantile emporium, and at slight expense and with no great difficulty, if there were sufficient zeal, you might make a collection of all those interesting and isolated tracts on commerce which at various times during the last century have appeared in England, which now with difficulty you can refer to, but which would form in a collection a peculiar and interesting body of commercial literature, and which, by the bye, you cannot find in the national repository of this country. You who had thus furnished the members of this institution with the journal which gave them the information and feelings of the hour, the library where they might collect the hasty opinions which perhaps that

passing criticism is apt to engender—you knew there were many not deficient in ability, not deficient in aptness or feeling, to whom the very ceremony of reading is irksome, and who require to be appealed to by another means perhaps at first sight more captivating. Therefore you formed a theatre where lectures were given, where the experiments of philosophy, the investigations of literature and the prolusions of art, were rendered agreeable to the audience by the charms of the human voice. You were not content with having raised an institution where the journal, the library, and the lecture-room were always prepared to enlighten or to amuse—you remembered those wise words of Charles V., who said that “the man who knew two languages had two souls and two lives,” and therefore you established classes by which the youth of this city might initiate themselves in a knowledge of the modern languages. Your plan was comprehensive; but it was not limited even by this fourth division. You knew well that in a free country, in a country that prides itself upon the science and practice of self-government, it is the duty—at least it is the interest—of all men to be able to express themselves in public with perspicuity, and, if possible, with elegance; therefore you established a discussion society, an institution in harmony with the political life and the social manners of England. Having thus amply provided for the formation of the mind of your new and rising community, you still remembered (borrowing a happy idea from those races of antiquity to whom you owe your name) that any education which confined itself to sedentary pursuits was essentially imperfect, that the body as well as the mind should be cultivated—you wisely, and in no common and ordinary spirit, established a gymnasium. These are the principal characteristics of your institution. There are others on which it would be wearisome to dwell; but I have placed before you six principal objects that you had

desired to attain. Having taken this large and comprehensive view of the wants of your society, and meeting them with a spirit so liberal and large, you took the best and wisest step. You knew well the effect that architecture produces on the human mind; you determined therefore that your establishment should be embodied in an edifice that should please the imagination and satisfy the taste. You invited the most eminent of modern architects. Under the roof of a noble elevation you supplied the means for pursuing those studies that I have indicated; and this is a simple account of the Manchester Athenæum.

It is difficult to conceive how a nobler purpose, if for a moment we dilate upon it, could have animated your intentions. When we remember the class of your community for which this institution was particularly adapted—when we conceive, difficult as it is, surrounded as we now are with luxury and pleasure—when we attempt to picture to our imaginations what is the position of a youth, perhaps of very tender years, sent, as I am informed is very frequently the case, from a distant district, to form his fortunes in this great metropolis of labour and of science—when we think of that youth, tender in age, with no domestic hearth to soothe and stimulate, to counsel or control—when we picture him to ourselves after a day of indefatigable toil, left to his lonely evenings and his meagre lodgings without a friend and without a counsellor, flying to dissipation from sheer want of distraction, and perhaps involved in vice before he is conscious of the fatal net that is surrounding him—what a contrast to his position does it offer when we picture him to ourselves with a feeling of self-confidence, which supports and sustains him after his day of toil, entering a great establishment where everything that can satisfy curiosity, that can form taste, that can elevate the soul of man and lead to noble thoughts and honourable intentions, surrounds him!

When we think of the convenience and the comfort, the kindness and the sympathy which, with a due decorum of manners, he is sure to command—this youth, who but a few hours before was a stranger—viewing an institution like the present only in this limited aspect, one must regard it as a great harbour of intellectual refuge and social propriety.

If my description of what this institution offers to us, if my view of what it in some degree supplies, be just, what, I must inquire, is the reason that an institution, the prosperity of which now cannot be doubted, but so brief a time ago could have been apparently in the last stage of its fortunes? It is not an agreeable task—I fear it may be considered by some an invidious one—if I, who am a stranger among you, shall attempt to play the critic upon your conduct; but I feel confidence in your indulgence. I remember the kindness which has placed me in this honourable position, and therefore I shall venture to express to you the two reasons to which I think the dangerous state of our position must fairly be ascribed. I would say, in the first place, without imputing the slightest fault to the originators of this institution, wishing to be most distinctly understood as not only not imputing any fault to them, but most decidedly being of opinion that the fault does not lie at their door; still I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that, in the origin of this institution, by circumstances not foreseen, and which certainly were not intended, a party, a limited, and a sectarian feeling, in some degree pervaded its management. I confess myself that it appears to me that it would have been a marvel had it been otherwise. When we remember the great changes that had then but very recently occurred in this country—when we recall to our mind not only the great changes that had occurred, but the still greater that were menaced and discussed—when we remember what an influence is created when local jealousy blends with political passion—it is not difficult to imagine,



because there are none of us present but in their sphere must have felt its influence—it is not wonderful that men of different political opinions should look with extreme jealousy upon each other. A combination of peculiar circumstances that created a balanced state of parties in those places where the struggle for dominion and power takes place, very much assisted this feeling; and that such a feeling existed throughout all England in a degree more intense and more virulent than has ever been equalled in the history of this country, I think no man will deny, and all must deplore. For my own part, I really believe that, had that party and sectarian feeling proceeded in the same ratio of virulence it has done for the last twelve or fourteen years, it must have exercised a barbarising influence upon public sentiments and public manners. There are some amongst us now, I know, who believe that the period has arrived when a great effort must be made to [emancipate this country from the degrading thralldom of faction—to terminate, if possible, that extreme, that sectarian, and limited view, in which all human conduct is examined, observed, and criticised—to put an end to that exclusiveness, which, in its peculiar sphere, is equally deleterious as that aristocratical exclusiveness of manners which has produced so much evil; and, as far as I can form an opinion, these views have met with sympathy from every part of the country. I look upon it that to-night—I hope I am not mistaken—we are met to consummate and to celebrate the emancipation of this city, at least so far as the Athenæum extends, from the influence of these feelings. I hope that our minds and our hearts are alike open to the true character of this institution, to the necessities which have created it, to the benefits to which it leads; and happy I shall be, and all, I am sure, who are assisting me this evening, if it prove that our efforts, however humble, may have assisted in so delightful and so desirable a consummation.

Now, that is one of the reasons, and one of the principal reasons, why I believe a blight seemed to have fallen over our fortunes. I think at the same time that there is another cause that has exercised an injurious effect upon the position, until recently, of this institution. I think that a limited view of its real character has been taken even by those who were inclined to view it in a spirit of extreme friendliness. It has been looked upon in the light of a luxury, and not of a necessity—as a means of enjoyment in the hour of prosperity from which we ought to be debarred when the adverse moment has arrived; so that, when trade was prospering, when all was sunshiny, a man might condescend to occupy his spare hours in something else than in a melancholy brooding over the state of the country—that, when returns were rapid and profits ready, one might deign to cultivate one's faculties, and become acquainted with what the mind of Europe was conceiving or executing; but these were delights to be reserved only for those chosen hours. Now that, I am bound frankly to say, is not the view which I take of this question—not the idea which I have formed of the real character of the Manchester Athenæum. { I look upon it as part of that great educational movement which is the noble and ennobling characteristic of the age in which we live. } Viewing it in that light, I cannot consent myself that it should be supported by fits and starts. The impulse which has given us that movement in modern times is one that may be traced to an age that may now be considered comparatively remote, though the swell of the waters has but recently approached our own shore. Heretofore society was established necessarily on a very different principle to that which is now its basis. { As civilization has gradually progressed, it has equalized the physical qualities of man. Instead of the strong arm it is the strong head that is now the moving principle of society. You have disenthroned Force, and placed on her high

seat Intelligence; and the necessary consequence of this great revolution is, that it has become the duty and the delight equally of every citizen to cultivate his faculties. The prince of all philosophy has told you, in an immortal apophthegm, so familiar to you all that it is now written in your halls and chambers, "Knowledge is power." If that memorable passage had been persued by the student who first announced this discovery of that great man to society, he would have found an oracle not less striking, and in my mind certainly not less true; for Lord Bacon has not only said that "Knowledge is power," but living one century after the discovery of the printing-press, he has also announced to the world that "Knowledge is pleasure." Why, when the great body of mankind had become familiar with this great discovery—when they learned that a new source was opened to them of influence and enjoyment, is it wonderful that from that hour the heart of nations has palpitated with the desire of becoming acquainted with all that has happened, and with speculating on what may occur? It has indeed produced upon the popular intellect an influence almost as great as—I might say analogous to—the great change which was produced upon the old commercial world by the discovery of the Americas. A new standard of value was introduced, and, after this, to be distinguished—man must be intellectual. Nor, indeed, am I surprised that this feeling has so powerfully influenced our race; for the idea that human happiness is dependent on the cultivation of the mind, and on the discovery of truth, is, next to the conviction of our immortality, the idea the most full of consolation of man; for the cultivation of the mind has no limits, and truth is the only thing that is eternal. Indeed, when you consider what a man is who knows only what is passing under his own eyes, and what the condition of the same man must be who belongs to an institution like the one which has assembled us together to-night, is it—ought it to



be—a matter of surprise that, from that moment to the present, you have had a general feeling throughout the civilised world in favour of the diffusion of knowledge? (A man who knows nothing but the history of the passing hour, who knows nothing of the history of the past, but that a certain person whose brain was as vacant as his own occupied the same house as himself, who in a moment of despondency or of gloom has no hope in the morrow because he has read nothing that has taught him that to-morrow has any changes—that man, compared with him who has read the most ordinary abridgement of history, or the most common philosophical speculation, is as distinct and different an animal as if he had fallen from some other planet, was influenced by a different organization, working for a different end, and hoping for a different result. It is knowledge that equalizes the social condition of man—that gives to all however different their political position, passions which are in common, and enjoyments which are universal. Knowledge is like the mystic ladder in the patriarch's dream. Its base rests on the primeval earth—its crest is lost in the shadowy splendour of the empyrean; while the great authors who for traditionary ages have held the chain of science and philosophy, of poesy and erudition are the angels ascending and descending the sacred scale, and maintaining, as it were, the communication between man and heaven. This feeling is so universal that there is no combination of society in any age in which it has not developed itself. It may, indeed, be partly restrained under despotic governments, under peculiar systems of retarded civilization; but it is a consequence as incidental to the spirit and the genius of the Christian civilization of Europe, as that the day should follow night, and the stars should shine according to their laws and order. Why, the very name of the institution that brings us together illustrates the fact—I can recall, and I think I see more than one gentleman around

me who equally can recall the hours in which we wandered amid

Fields that cool Ilyssus laves.

At least, there is my honourable friend the member for Stockport, who, I am sure, has a lively recollection of that classic stream, for I remember one of the most effective allusions he made to it in one of the most admirable speeches I ever listened to. But, notwithstanding that allusion, I would still appeal to the poetry of his constitution, and I know it abounds in that quality. I am sure that he could not have looked without emotion on that immortal scene. I still can remember that olive-crowned plain, that sunset crag, that citadel fane of ineffable beauty! That was a brilliant civilization developed by a gifted race more than two thousand years ago; at a time when the ancestors of the manufacturers of Manchester, who now clothe the world, were themselves covered with skins, and tattooed like the red men of the wilderness. But influences more powerful even than the awful lapse of time separate and distinguish you from that race. They were the children of the sun; you live in a distant, a rugged, and northern clime. They bowed before different altars, they followed different customs, they were modified by different manners. Votaries of the Beautiful, they sought in Art the means of embodying their passionate conceptions; you have devoted your energies to Utility; and by the means of a power almost unknown to antiquity, by its miraculous agencies, you have applied its creative force to every combination of human circumstances that could produce your objects. Yet, amid the toil and triumphs of your scientific industry, upon you there comes the undefinable, the irresistible yearning for intellectual refinement—you build an edifice consecrated to those beautiful emotions and to those civilizing studies in which they excelled,

and you impress upon its front a name taken from—

Where on Ægean shores a city rose,  
Built nobly, clear the air, and light the soil,  
Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of art's  
And eloquence!

Beautiful triumph of immortal genius! Sublime incentive to eternal fame! Then, when the feeling is so universal, when it is one which modern civilization is nurturing and developing, who does not feel that it is not only the most benevolent, but the most politic thing you can do to avail yourselves of its influence, and to direct in every way the formation of that character upon which intellect must necessarily now exercise an irresistible influence? We cannot shut our eyes any longer to the immense revolution. Knowledge is no longer a lonely hermit affording a chance and captivating hospitality to some wandering pilgrim; knowledge is now found in the market-place, a citizen and a leader of citizens. The spirit has touched the multitude; it has impregnated the mass—

————— Totamque infusa per artus,  
Mens agitat molem, et magno se corpore miscet.

I would yet say one word to those for whom this institution is not entirely but principally formed. I would address myself to that youth on whom the hopes of all societies repose and depend. I doubt not that they feel conscious of the position which they occupy—a position which, under all circumstances, at all periods, in every clime and country, is one replete with duty. The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity; but the youth I address have duties peculiar to the position which they occupy. They are the rising generation of a society unprecedented in the history of the world; that is at once powerful and new. In other parts of the kingdom the remains of an ancient civilization are prepared ever to guide, to culti-

vate, to influence the rising mind ; but they are born in a miraculous creation of novel powers, and it is rather a providential instinct that has developed the necessary means of maintaining the order of your new civilization than the matured foresight of man. This is their inheritance. They will be called on to perform duties—great duties. I, for one, wish, for their sakes and for the sake of my country, that they may be performed greatly. I give to them that counsel which I have ever given to youth, and which I believe to be the wisest and the best—I tell them to aspire. I believe that the man who does not look up will look down ; and that the spirit that does not dare to soar is destined perhaps to grovel. Every individual is entitled to aspire to that position which he believes his faculties qualify him to occupy. I know there are some who look with what I believe is shortsighted-timidty and false prudence upon such views. They are apt to tell us—"Beware of filling the youthful mind with an impetuous tumult of turbulent fancies ; teach youth, rather, to be content with his position—do not induce him to fancy that he is that which he is not, or to aspire to that which he cannot achieve." In my mind these are superficial delusions. He who enters the world finds his level. It is the solitary being, the isolated individual, alone in his solitude, who may be apt to miscalculate his powers, and misunderstand his character. But action teaches him the truth, even if it be a stern one. Association affords him the best criticism in the world, and I will venture to say, that if he belong to the Athenæum, though when he enters it he may think himself a genius, if nature has not given him a passionate and creative soul, before a week has elapsed he will become a very sober-minded individual. I wish to damp no youthful ardour. I can conceive what such an institution would have afforded to the suggestive mind of a youthful Arkwright. I can conceive what a nursing-mother such an institution must have been to the brooding genius of

your illustrious and venerated Dalton. It is the asylum of the self-formed; it is the counsellor of those who want counsel; but it is not a guide that will mislead, and it is the last place that will fill the mind of man with false ideas and false conceptions. He reads a newspaper, and his conceit oozes out after reading a leading article. He refers to the library, and the calm wisdom of centuries and sages moderates the rash impulse of juvenescence. He finds new truths in the lecture-room, and he goes home with a conviction that he is not so learned as he imagined. In the discussion of a great question with his equals in station, perhaps he finds he has his superiors in intellect. These are the means by which the mind of man is brought to a healthy state, by which that self-knowledge that always has been lauded by sages may be most securely attained. It is a rule of universal virtue, and from the senate to the counting-house will be found of universal application. Then, to the youth of Manchester, representing now the civic youth of this great county and this great district, I now appeal. Let it never be said again that the fortunes of this institution were in danger. Let them take advantage of this hour of prosperity calmly to examine and deeply to comprehend the character of that institution in which their best interests are involved, and which for them may afford a relaxation which brings no pang and yields information which may bear them to fortune. It is to them I appeal with confidence, because I feel I am pleading their cause—with confidence, because in them I repose my hopes. When nations fall, it is because a degenerate race intervenes between the class that created and the class that is doomed. Let them then remember what has been done for them. The leaders of their community have not been remiss in regard to their interests. Let them remember, that when the inheritance devolves upon them, they are not only to enjoy but to improve. They will



one day succeed to the high places of this great community ; let them recollect those who lighted the way for them ; and when they have wealth, when they have authority, when they have power, let it not be said that they were deficient in public virtue and public spirit. When the torch is delivered to them, let them also light the path of human progress to educated man.

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SPEECH  
OF  
RICHARD COBDEN, M.P.,

OCTOBER 23, 1844.

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[Mr. Cobden was one of the founders of the Manchester Athenæum, and a very constant and earnest supporter of it during its early years. He spoke at the first, second, and third soirées—all held during the height and stress of the Anti-Corn Law League's campaign—and it was at the fifth of the soirées in 1847 that he first appeared after his lengthened tour on the continent. The following is a report of his speech at the second soirée, October 23, 1844, held under the presidency of Mr. Disraeli:—]

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—To me there is no greater difficulty in addressing an audience than to find myself in the position of having nothing to prove and nothing to disprove. That is precisely my position on this occasion. We are met here on a question upon which there is now, both within and without those walls, a perfect unanimity. We have no opponents; I believe we have no cavillers. I am put forward, then, on this

occasion, I presume, after the most eloquent and suggestive speech which we have just heard, which may furnish texts and matters for much future comment and discussion to the members of the Athenæum. I am put forward on this occasion, I presume, as one of the founders and earliest members of the Athenæum, to express our feelings of gratitude to those gentlemen whom I see around me, distinguished by their genius, their rank, and their public fame, for coming amongst us on this occasion, to give us their assistance, and to countenance us; and I may say that on this occasion we have the pleasure of welcoming them amongst us when we can say we are prospering in their hands. The Athenæum has been well described as being a society for self-culture. It is self-supporting. It was from the first self-supporting. It was, I may say, a donation, so far as the building goes, from the employers of this town to the employed; but from the first origin of the Athenæum, in the nature of its rules and objects, it has been wholly in the hands of its members; and if it has struggled through a period of adversity, and been brought into the haven of prosperity in which we now find it, it is to the members of the Athenæum themselves that that honour is due; and if it would not be deemed invidious to particularise individuals, there are persons in this hall who by their personal exertions have mainly contributed to bring the institution into its present shape. But, gentlemen, though we the members of the Athenæum are self-supporting, still I think we should not forget on this occasion the very great advantages which are conferred upon us by such visits as we have received to-night; and after those which we had last year from Mr. Dickens and others, I think we cannot lose sight of the advantages which this institution has received, and will receive, from the sanction which those distinguished men have given to our institution. Not the least important of these advantages is the fact that, from the mixed political



character of the gentlemen who surround me, our institution is at all events rescued from the charge—for I will not admit that the charge was ever deserved—but it is rescued now from the charge, at all events, of having a political party object in view; and I am sure that I speak the language and the feelings of every member of the Athenæum now present when I say, that I should consider that man the greatest enemy of the town, and of society, who should ever dream of converting this institution to any party political purpose. (Applause.) I could not help a casual observation, as Mr. Disraeli was speaking, upon the position I filled on this bench; for, with Lord John Manners on one side, and Mr. Smythe on the other, I think such a conjunction will at all events prevent the possibility of the Athenæum ever being supposed a party institution. (Applause and laughter.) We thank them, then, brother members, for coming among us, and producing such a desirable result as this; and now, taking advantage of this vantage ground, and having the full support of every sect, and party, and class in the community, I will ask, What may not the Athenæum in a few years become under these valuable auspices? I remember, in that most delightful work with which the genius of our chairman has lately supplied us—(applause)—and, by the way, I would observe that I believe he is the first man of distinguished genius who, in a work of the imagination, has assigned to a man of my order something like an honourable status in his pages. I remember his Milbank, and I thank him for it—(applause)—and I remember Miss Milbank also, and I thank him for it. (Applause.) By the way, I rather think the original of Coningsby is here. I believe he is not married, ladies; and probably Miss Milbank may be here—(laughter)—but I was going to observe that, in that most delightful work, Mr. Disraeli, speaking of Manchester, says, “It is a philosopher only who can see and predict the future destiny of Manchester.” I’ll

venture to say, that that philosopher will, at all events have but one test for the future greatness of Manchester, and that that will be a mental test, and not a material test—that our destiny will be decided, not by the expanse of bricks and mortar, not by the multiplication of steam-engines, not by the accumulation of wealth; but just in proportion as mental development goes forward, and in proportion to the development of wealth and mental resources, just in the same proportion will our destiny be advanced or exalted, or the very reverse. Manchester, then, stands upon an eminence, We are not in the position in which this community can shrink from the test that will be applied to us; we are increasing in numbers; we are accumulating in wealth; and, therefore, unless we make progress at the same time in this moral and intellectual development to which I have referred, the expanse of houses and mills will be to the odium rather than to the honour of Manchester. And I speak not merely of Manchester, but of the surrounding district. Why, Manchester has its satellites of towns, each of them as large as ancient cities! Those ancient cities became celebrated in the world's history. How? Why, not for their wealth, not for the mere increase of their numbers, but because those ancient cities have left traces of the arts and of literature, which have immortalised the efforts of their men of genius, when their population have decayed, and their wealth have passed into other channels, and have been altogether obliterated. Such would be our fate; such must be the test of this and surrounding towns; and I would call upon the deputies who have come here from Bolton, Stockport, Oldham, and the rest—I would call upon them, since we are no longer supposed to be a political party; I would call upon them to make this the starting point for establishing an Athenæum in every one of these towns—for each of these important towns would support an Athenæum, and render themselves worthy of the

wealth and the resources which they possess. You do not need anything from me to urge the application of your minds to this pursuit, after the eloquent appeal which has been made to you ; but I would say, in whatever capacity you may be placed, whatever may be your destiny, if you are to be wealthy individuals, your wealth will only be a tainted lustre, unless accompanied by civilization, and by the cultivation of the intellect. If you are in trouble, if you are in adversity, what so delightful as that honourable resource derived from the cultivation of the higher faculties, and which no bankruptcy court can ever extort from you ! (Applause.) I read with the greatest pleasure a letter which has been sent to us from our old friend, Thomas Hood. You know the advice he gave to you the last time. He was then on a sick-bed. He is still an invalid. I will read the passage from the letter, for it is full of truth and pungent wit:—"The truth is, I am a confirmed invalid, and almost wit in fer still life ; a condition irksome enough, and which would be intolerable but for the comfort and consolation I derive from the diversions of authorship and the blessed springs of literature. Fortunately, the head—that has a mind to it—may travel without those pantings which beset spasmodic lungs ; the thoughts can expatiate without such palpitations as result from the excursions of the legs. Forbidden to walk, there is the run of the library—(laughter)—but I have already described the advantages of books and reading, by help of which even the bedridden may enjoy a longer range than Captain Warner's. (Laughter.) Suffice it, that experience and suffering have confirmed my former views—that, if anything could aggravate the evil of becoming what the Scotch call 'a puir silly body,' it must be a poor silly mind, incapable of wholesome exercise—without appetite for intellectual food, or the power of digesting it. And as age and accidents to the human machinery will impair the strongest horse-power of health, while the fairest

mercantile endeavour may fail to secure a fortune—I would earnestly forewarn all persons within reach of my counsel—especially the young—to provide against such contingencies, by the timely cultivation and enrichment of that divine allotment which it depends on ourselves to render a flower garden or a dead waste—a pleasure ground visited by the Graces and frequented by the Fairies, or a wilderness haunted by Satyrs.” (Applause.) Ladies and Gentlemen,—On such an occasion as this, I have, as you know, one rule. We are honoured by the presence of distinguished men who have come from a distance. I am here at home amongst you. I should feel myself doing an injustice to my own feelings, as well as to yours, if I were to occupy your time when so many are waiting to address you. I shall therefore briefly conclude with saying that I hope the brevity of my speech will not be taken advantage of by those who follow me, because if it is I should feel I was doing injustice to you by setting a bad example. I say, in conclusion, to those who form the deputations, as well as to the members of the Athenæum, it is upon you that will depend the future character of these institutions. You are Young Manchester. We have “Young England” here to-night. (Loud cheers.) Do you therefore go on, as you have gone on, through great difficulties; go on, applying the same energies to the advancement of the interests of this institution, and of kindred institutions in all the neighbouring towns; do that, by which I firmly believe that you are not merely adding to your own stores of happiness, but that you are trying to elevate the community among which you live; and upon you will depend the future greatness of Manchester, and of the surrounding community. (Applause.)

## S P E E C H

OF THE HON.

GEORGE SYDNEY SMYTHE, M.P.

[AFTERWARDS VISCOUNT STRANGFORD.]

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[Mr. George Sydney Smythe, M.P. for Canterbury, and afterwards Lord Strangford, spoke at the second soirée. He was introduced by Mr. Disraeli as "the youngest and not the least successful of England's authors." Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Smythe, and Lord John Manners (who was also present on the occasion) were the leaders of the Young England party, some humorous references to which will be found in Mr. Cobden's address. The speech of Mr. Smythe was one of the most eloquent of a long series, and created an extraordinary furore, the audience at the close rising to their feet and cheering for some minutes.]

Ladies, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,—If Mr. Gibson, at the outset of so eloquent a speech as that which he has just addressed to you, thought it necessary to apologize to you for detaining you some moments from the Terpsichorean fascinations which he stated are awaiting you—if, after such a speech as that which has just delighted you, he has thought it necessary to make an apology, how much more necessary must it be for me, in thus presuming to appear before you, and especially



after a notice so commendatory, and therefore so embarrassing as that of my honourable friend in the chair. Difficult at all times would it be to speak before an audience where there is one who bears the venerated name of Kemble—to speak before an assembly thus attended by distinguished men, thus presided over by genius, and thus graced and adorned by beauty. But I will say frankly—I will avow, that it is less the external splendour of this brilliant pageant, all brilliant though it be—it is less the external magnificence of this exhibition which unnerves me at this moment, than the idea—the thought—the elemental principle of which it is the expression. It seems to me that you, to use the words of your chairman, represent a great necessity; that you, the men of Manchester, have arisen to do honour to letters, in a land where too little honour has been done to letters. It seems to me that, with a spirit worthy of a younger and a freer age, you have resolved to offer to the author and the man of letters a reward of a simpler and less sordid character than the mere hire of this newspaper, or the pay of that review; or, with intentions yet more far-sighted and profound, you may have resolved to correct some of these, the anomalies of a country which is governed by its journals, but where the names of its journalists are never mentioned; of a country where, by the most unhappy of inversions, it is the invention which makes the fortune, and it is the inventor who starves; of a country where, if its men of science aspire to the highest honours which you have to bestow—the suffrages of their fellow citizens—those men of science will poll by units, where mere politicians will poll by hundreds. And it seems to me especially meet and right and fitting that you, the men of Manchester, should redress these evils; because there is an old, an intimate, a natural alliance between literature and commerce. It is in virtue of this alliance (which has been alluded to in the speeches of the gentlemen who have



preceded me this evening) that you know what is passing amongst foreigners—that you cannot but regard with sympathy the honours which abroad are paid to literature. Why, the very ambassadors now sent to us from foreign courts are so many reproaches for our neglect of letters. Who is the ambassador from Russia? A man who has risen by his pen. Who is the ambassador from Sweden? An author and an historian—the historian of British India. Who is the ambassador from Prussia? An author and a professor? Who is the ambassador from Belgium? Again, a man who has risen by literature. Who is the ambassador from France? An author and an historian. Who is the ambassador from our fellow-Saxon in America? Again, an author and professor. But I will venture to predict for the literature that shall result from such a meeting as the present, that shall derive its impulse from such a spirit, that shall be fostered and encouraged by such sympathies as yours, a destiny yet more lasting and auspicious; because it will not, as Mr. Gibson has said this moment, it will not lean upon the reed of patronage; it will not be patronized by monarchs; it will not be fashioned by nobles; it will not be confined to classes. It shall be free, independent, universal, and, above all tolerant, as your own free, independent, universal, and tolerant commerce. [Applause having broken and interrupted the conclusion of this passage, the honourable gentleman said]—I ventured to ask you to let me finish my sentence, because that will explain the diffidence which I feel at this moment—the awe which I feel at having penetrated this, which I believe to be the elemental idea of this meeting. It brings me face to face, as it were, with a great thought, which carries me down amongst future generations into the very presence of immortality. But with all this admiration and all this awe, I will confess there mingles something of astonishment. My feelings (to compare those of a small with a great man), on receiving your invitation,

were something like those which David Hume described on reading the great work of Gibbon. Writing to him, he says: "Forgive me if I tell you that I have read your work with as much surprise as admiration, because it seems to me, that while we in Scotland have done great things for literature, you in England have given yourselves up to absurd and barbarous factions." Gentlemen, this meeting is an earnest and a guarantee that these absurdities shall cease, and that these barbarities shall have an end. But, gentlemen, even in this pleasant hour; even in an hour which we have spent in listening to such eloquence, it is impossible not to give a thought to the many and the illustrious victims who have been sacrificed to these the absurdities, the barbarities, or, what is even worse, the vulgarities of our party warfare. Remember for a moment the fate of our last great man. Remember how he was branded and proscribed as an adventurer, because he was born to no hereditary fortune; and then, when the gentle-judging and the generous; when men with large thoughts and large feelings; when men such as I see around me this evening; when the few gathered about him to fight his battle against the many, he was again branded and proscribed, because they were a few, as a caballer and an intriguer. Remember how through life his views were thwarted, how his spirit was crushed, how his genius was blighted, how his heart was broken, how he was haunted to his grave. And then you may well understand how, amidst calumny and detraction; how amidst small men's envy, and the insults of men yet smaller, he must often have pined for some such neutral ground as this, to which his harassed spirit might have flown away and been at peace. And you, despite such eloquence as you have heard this evening; there are few, with the prospect of this happier hour of toleration, of which this meeting is the guarantee; there are few, now that fifteen years have passed over his grave, who will hesitate to exclaim with me, "Oh, for one hour

of George Canning." But there may be some amongst you, gentlemen, who hear me, who think that I am taking too large a view—that I am anticipating results too grave and too important from the Manchester Athenæum. To those who have heard the speeches addressed to you, I think it needless to combat such a proposition. Such at no time could have been a thoughtful opinion, This is no mere ceremonial commemoration. It is impossible for any one to have studied the history of the last half-century, without perceiving that Manchester has always been foremost in the great work of national advancement. I have said before, you represent a great necessity; I believe there is a great work to do, and I believe that *you* will do it. It seems to me that you, who have already carried your material triumphs to the remotest corners of the earth, have also remembered that there was still another world to conquer. Nor will your triumphs in this spiritual world be less remarkable, because that same creative power, which in the world of action is called invention, and which aids and serves and ministers to man; that same creative power in the world of thought is called genius, and governs and provides for man. But in either sphere, be it of thought or of action, your object is ever the same; it is your high and holy mission to benefit mankind. There is nothing small, there is nothing exclusive, there is nothing partial, there is nothing—to use the words of the chairman—there is nothing sectarian in the spirit of British commerce. It was ~~out~~ of a temper as catholic, as universal, that the ~~humanities~~ first sprang; it will be out of a temper as catholic that here, in the metropolis of English enterprise, great things will again be done. Even at the risk of fatiguing you, I will venture to illustrate my meaning. There is a city which is, as it were, the capital of literature—at once the capital of free letters and of free commerce. It was at Mayence, in a time of darkness and oppressor, that a simple citizen arose, strong in justice,

strong in the despair of the many, strong ever in the wickedness of the few, who resolved to confront those knightly highwaymen who exacted a toll upon every article, even those of first necessity, which passed through their dominions. That simple citizen was seconded by an enlightened sovereign, pledged to just principles of commerce. That simple citizen and that enlightened sovereign prevailed. They became the founders of free commerce—I use the word in no partial or party sense; they became the founders of the Rhenish and the Hanseatic leagues; and the ruins of those knightly fortresses upon the banks of the Rhine, still inform the traveller what is the fate of the unjust. But what followed? Out of the impulse thus given; out of the spirit thus awakened; out of free commerce there sprang free letters. It was in that same Mayence that Gutenberg invented printing; it was then the destruction of monopolies in trade that proved the destruction of monopolies in knowledge: the emancipation of the one proved the emancipation of the other. Here, then, in a country as free, and with a sovereign, let us hope, no less anxious to give active relief to the misery of her poorer subjects than was Rodolph of Hapsburgh; here, with merchant-princes around me, animated with a munificence as large as Walpoldens, there shall be to Manchester a renown as great as that of Mayence. I speak not of your local munificence; but I see your vessels and your argosies daily laden, not with bales of cottons and silks and cloths, but with goods which have neither a declared nor an official value; they bear from this free island truths which tend to elevate the character of man; they carry principles which tend to unite all men in one fair confraternity of reciprocal assistance. And when out of a spirit so catholic, a power so universal, the old world shall again have received one of those moral shocks which, like printing or like steam, throw it one stage further forward on its career; when civilization

shall be one hour nearer its meridian, you will remember that this meeting too had some share in the work of progress. Because here, even at this very hour, we are proclaiming the banns of a marriage which represents the primeval alliance between the spirit and the matter; for this, too, is an alliance between the spirit and the matter. It is a marriage between an industry which has conquered the world, and overspread it "as the waters cover the sea," and an intellect which is young, which is of the people, and which, by God's help, shall continue pure.

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S P E E C H  
OF  
MR. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.,

OCTOBER 23, 1845.

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[Mr. John Bright, then M.P. for Manchester, spoke at the third soirée, held on the 23rd October, 1845, under the presidency of Serjeant (afterwards Mr. Justice) Talfourd, the author of the tragedy of *Ion*. The number of ladies and gentlemen present on this occasion was 3,750.]

I assure this meeting that I should much have preferred being a listener and a learner, to taking any prominent part in the proceedings of this evening ; for I am conscious I have neither literary or scientific character or attainments to give me the smallest claim to stand upon this platform. I have only attained to this degree because I have learned to admire and to honour all those men who, by their deep thought, or their eloquent writings, have done anything to improve and to elevate mankind. And when I look upon this platform and see who are your invited guests to-night,—men who have honoured this meeting by their presence, and upon whom this meeting has conferred no slight honour by the



invitation which has been sent them.—and when I look upon this vast meeting, I feel certain that there are thousands here who, if they may not claim to be literary or scientific, may at least claim to sympathize with the feelings which you [the chairman] have expressed, and can admire and honour those who thus lead the minds of their countrymen. (Cheers.) From the moment when I first began to take any part in affairs of public import I have tried to cherish a deep, a strong, and unwavering faith in the goodness that there exists in human kind; and to-night I may confess that that faith burns, if possible, more brightly than upon any previous occasion. I feel we are met here—I trust we all feel that we are met here—not for the purpose of engaging in a frivolous amusement, or passing an idle hour, or spending an evening less dully than sometimes we do; but that we are assembled for the purpose of supporting an institution of the best and noblest character, an institution which has for its object to promote, among those who at a very early period must become the directors and controllers of public opinion and influence in this district, the formation of sentiments and of character which shall enable them to fulfil the high duties to which they must speedily be called. And of the importance of those duties we may form some idea from the importance of the district in which we are now assembled.

We are in a county the most populous in the empire. In this county is collected more of wealth than can be found in some twenty counties that might be named, and more, probably, of the power of producing wealth than exists in half the island besides. There is also in the county an activity of mind which is not excelled—I doubt if it be equalled—in any other portion of the British empire. (Cheers.) If then there be this population, this wealth, this power to create more wealth, and this activity of mind, am I wrong in coming to the conclusion, that the course which shall be pursued here, and the

opinions which shall prevail here, must greatly influence the destinies of the empire, and if of this widely extended empire, then, I say, the destinies of the world? (Loud cheers.) But some may ask, "How comes it that just in our lifetime so much excitement is raised with regard to mutual and mental improvement? Has not the world rolled on since its creation without so much of societies and associations like this?" It is true the world has rolled on for ages and ages; men have been born and have lived; they have suffered and have died. But no reader of history can have failed to observe that the records of past ages are records for the most part of error, and crime, and human suffering; and is it too much to assert that it is possible, with all the abundant means of enjoyment around us, that man may yet be made more happy? Is it an irreverent thought that we may, by cultivation, more largely develop the divine faculties that are within us, and add at once to human happiness, and to the honour and renown or the Divine creator? (Vast applause.) We must recollect, moreover, that circumstances have much changed of late years. They are hourly changing. Time was, and is yet to some extent, when the destinies of provinces, and nations, and empires, were in the hands of one man, or of a few men. But there is a mighty change taking place; for just in proportion as nations become informed and intelligent, so is power diffused among them, and there is continually in progress, as we become more informed, a transference of power from one or a few to many and to all. This depends not upon forms of government, for whether we look at absolute Russia, or to this country, where power is shared by many; or whether we look to the American continent, where republicanism is the form of government,—everywhere we find, whatever be the symbols of power, whatever be the outward form in which it is clothed, or appears to be clothed, a public opinion which is now almost daily gathering strength, and which is

marching on to omnipotence, and to undisputed dominion. The condition of our social and political existence must be finally determined by this public opinion. If as we gain knowledge we become more powerful, the very effect of our having more power makes it necessary that we should have more knowledge ; for with greater power we have greater responsibilities, and greater responsibilities demand that we should have greater intelligence, in order that that responsibility may be fulfilled, and that the power we possess may be wisely exercised. I hold these views myself strongly, much more strongly than I have expressed them here or can express them ; and therefore, I have felt it my duty, being called upon, to lay them before a meeting, consisting as this does of thousands, and representing vast multitudes out of doors, considering that even the simplest and the weakest thought, if it be but a good or useful thought, may have some effect if stated before so large an assembly as this.

I admit much is doing in Manchester, and that much has been done. I doubt if there be any town in the kingdom, at the present time, which is making such rapid strides in everything good, noble, and desirable, as is this town in which we are assembled ; but still I cannot conceal from myself that much still remains to be done. We must not look too much upon the past, and boast of what has been hitherto accomplished. We must, if possible, look to the future, and erect for ourselves a higher standard, and a nobler aim, resting unsatisfied with what has been done, so long as there remains anything further that is great, which we can accomplish. (Much applause.) It is not enough for us that we clothe the world cheaply ; it is not enough that many of our manufacturers and merchants amass wealth, and that multitudes of industrious artizans are well clothed, and in comfortable circumstances. More than this is wanted ; and if, upon this occasion, I may be permitted to state what I believe to be wanted, it is that there should be

more of sound and real education. (Loud cheers.) I speak not so much of its want among the operative classes, as among my own class and rank,—among those connected with the manufactures and commerce of this district. I hold it to be quite impossible that there should be a great raising up of the operative classes unless there be a corresponding improvement among the class next above them in the social world. (Cheers.) A great effort at some not distant period must be made. We must recollect—I often recollect—that the great, so-called national universities, are not for us; that to the multitudes in this district their honours and their advantages are effectually barred. But it is not for people here to fold their arms in apathy, because they find difficulties in their path. If those difficulties be surmountable, why should we not surmount them? (Loud cheers.) I have sometimes seen a picture which I hope some day may be found a reality. I have seen the good, and the intelligent, and the generous of the counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire dissatisfied with things as they are with regard to educational means. I have seen them gradually rousing themselves from their apathy; I have seen their long list of names with figures to each, denoting large and spirited and generous subscriptions for the purpose of founding, building, and establishing some great free college or university, which should be for the special service, and dedicated to the education of the sons of those who are engaged in the vast commerce of this district. I have pictured to myself also the plan upon which it should be carried out—free to all, open to all; that it should not suppose that the teaching, the imperfect teaching of a couple of dead languages was education, any more than we are to consider that true nobility consists in a long line of dead ancestors. (Long and loud applause.) I have hoped that the education imparted would be one of a practical character, where all the knowledge that could be communicated would be given, where noble

sentiments would be implanted, where generous sympathies would be called forth, where young men should not only store up facts, but that which is true wisdom, the power to use the knowledge they have acquired.

I do not despair that this which I have just suggested may at some not distant period be accomplished, We in this neighbourhood have warred with the elements already, and have compelled the powers of nature to do our bidding. Our coal, our ironstone, our water, whether from the spring or from the brook, have become willing and untiring agents in our service. The very air—the invisible fluid in which we live, and that surrounds us—will speedily propel us across the kingdom in a few hours, thus making nothing of the great obstacles of time and space. With these increased comforts and advantages that we enjoy, shall we neglect that which is most noble, because it is the indestructible portion of our being? Shall we be victors in the material world only, and gain no laurels in the intellectual? Or shall we dive to the deepest depths, and soar to the loftiest heights, growing in mental stature, and adding to all those outward blessings that surround us—yet neglect those which are purer and more lasting, and which spring up as a rich harvest from the culture of the mind? (Cheers.) I said I had never despaired. Certainly I have not. But if I had, to-night, with the aspect of this vast, this unequalled assembly, I should have felt my soul covered with confidence and hope; and as we are here assembled for this great and good purpose, I would ask every one of you to make a firm resolution, that wherever there be a road open, wherever there be a path along which you can tread, either to elevate your own mind, or the minds of those around you, and especially of this vast population among which we live, let us, if possible, strive more determinedly, more perseveringly, than heretofore, to make this county and this district what it ought to be, and what it must become if he would have social order



preserved, and its prosperity continued. (Cheers.) I will not occupy the time of the meeting longer, and I am only sorry—and I express it with the utmost sincerity—that as this is a literary meeting, men of literary character, rather than those of mostly a political one, should not have been called upon to address you.—(The honourable gentleman then resumed his seat amidst general applause.)

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ADDRESS  
OF  
THOMAS NOON TALFOURD,

OCTOBER 23, 1845.

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[The author of the tragedy of *Ion*, Thomas Noon Talfourd, then Serjeant-at-law, afterwards one of Her Majesty's judges, presided at the third soirée on the 23rd of October, 1845. On this occasion, the audience numbered 3,800 persons. The other speakers were Mark Philips, M.P.; Frank Stone, the painter; Mr. John Bright, M.P., Douglas Jerrold, Mr. Milner Gibson, then M.P. for Manchester; Samuel Lover, the Irish song writer; and Richard Cobden.]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—If there were not virtue in its objects, and power in the affections, which have called into life the splendid scene before me, capable of emboldening the apprehensive and strengthening the feeble, I should shrink at this moment from attempting to discharge the duties of the high office to which the kindness of your directors has raised me. When I remember that the first of this series of brilliant anniversaries was illustrated by the presidency of my friend, Mr. Charles Dickens, who

brought to your cause not only the most earnest sympathy with the healthful enjoyments and steady advancement of his species, but the splendour of a fame as early matured and as deeply impressed on the hearts of his countrymen, as that of any writer since the greatest of her intellectual eras; when I recollect that his place was filled last year by one whose genius, singularly diversified and vivid, has glanced with arrowy light over various departments of literature and conditions of life, and who was associated with kindred spirits, eager to lavish the ardours of generous youth on the noble labour of renewing old ties of brotherhood and attachment among all classes and degrees of the human family,—I feel that scarcely less than the inspiration that breathes upon us here, through every avenue of good you have opened, could justify the hope that the deficiencies of the chairman of this night may be forgotten in the interest and majesty of his themes. Impressive as such an assembly as this would be in any place, and under any circumstances, it becomes solemn, almost awful, when the true significance of its splendour is unveiled to the mind. If we consider that this festival of intellect is holden in the capital of a district containing, within narrow confines, a population of scarcely less than two millions of immortal beings, engrossed in a proportion far beyond that of any other in the world, in the toils of manufacture and commerce; that it indicates at once an unprecedented desire on the part of the elder and wealthier labourers in this reign of industry, to share with those whom they employ and protect, the blessings which equally sweeten the lot of all, and the resolution of the young to win and diffuse them; that it exhibits literature, once the privilege only of a cloistered few, supplying the finest links of social union, to be expanded by those numerous members of the middle class whom they are now embracing,

and who yet comprise "two-thirds of all the virtue that remains," throughout that greater mass which they are elevating, and of whose welfare they, in turn, will be the guardians,—we feel that this assembly represents objects which, though intensely local, are yet of universal concern, and cease to wonder at that familiar interest with which strangers at once regard them.

Personally, till a few days ago, a stranger to almost every member of your institution, or rather cluster of institutions, I find now to-day, in the little histories of your aims and achievements, which your reports present, an affinity, sudden indeed but lasting, with some of the happiest passages in a thousand earnest and laborious lives. I seem to take my place in your lecture room, an eager and docile listener among young men whom daily duties preclude from a laborious course of studies, to be refreshed, invigorated, enlightened—sometimes nobly elevated, sometimes as nobly humbled—by the living lessons of philosophic wisdom—whether penetrating the earth or elucidating the heavens, or developing the more august wonders of the world which lies within our own natures, or informing the Present with the spirit of the Past;—happy to listen to such lessons from some gifted stranger or well-known and esteemed professor, scattering the germs of knowledge and taste, to find root in opening minds;—but, better still, if the effort should be made by one of yourselves,—by a fellow-townsmen and fellow-student, emboldened by the assurance of welcome to try some short excursion of modest fancy, or to illustrate some cherished theory by genial examples, and privileged to taste, in the heartiest applause of those who know him best and esteem him most, that which is the choicest ingredient in the pleasure of the widest fame. I mingle with your Essay and Discussion Class, share in the tumultuous but hopeful throbbings of some young debater,

grow serene as his just self-reliance masters his fears, triumph in his crowning success, and understand, in his timid acceptance of your unenvying congratulations, at the close of his address, that most exquisite pleasure which attends the first assurance of ability to render palpable in language the products of lonely self-culture, and the consciousness that, as ideas which seemed obscure and doubtful while they lurked in the recesses of the mind, are by the genial inspiration of the hour, shaped into form and kindled into life, they are attested by the understandings and welcomed by the affections of numbers. I seek your Library,—yet indeed but in its infancy, but from whence information and refined enjoyment speed on quicker and more multitudinous wings than from some of the stateliest repositories of accumulated and cloistered learning, to vindicate that right which the youngest apprentice lad possesses, not merely to claim, but to select for his own, a portion in that inheritance which the mighty dead have left to mankind, secured by the power of the press against the decays of time and the shocks of fortune, or to exult in a communion with the spirit of that mighty literature, which yet breathes on us fresh from the genius of the living; to feel that we live in a great and original age of literature, proud in the consciousness that its spirit is not only to be felt as animating works elaborately constructed to endure, but as, with a noble prodigality, diffusing lofty sentiments, sparkling wit, exquisite grace, and suggestions even for serene contemplation through the most rapid effusions, weekly, monthly, daily given to the world; and, far beyond the literature of every previous age of the world, aiding the spirit of humanity to appreciate the sufferings, the virtues, and the claims of the poor. And if I must confess, even when refreshed by the invigorating influences of this hour, that I can scarcely fancy myself virtuous enough to join one of

your classes for the acquisition of science or language, or young enough to share in the exercises of your gymnasium, where good spirits and kind affections attend on the development of physical energy, there are yet some of your gay and graceful intermixtures of amusement with study to which I would gladly claim admission. I would welcome that delightful alternation of gentle excitement and thoughtful repose by which your musical entertainments tend to the harmony and proportion of life. I should rejoice to share in some of those Irish Evenings, by which our friend Mr. Lover has pictured, in its happiest aspects, that land which is daily acquiring that affection and justice which it so strongly claims. I would appreciate with the heart, if not with the ear, the illustrations of Burns, by which a Scottish melodist has made you familiar with that poet, and enabled you to forget labour and care, and walk with the inspired rustic "in glory and in joy" among his native hills. And with peculiar gratitude to your directors for enabling you to snatch from death and time, some vestiges of departing grandeur in a genial art which the soonest yields to their ravages, I would hail with you the mightiest and the loveliest dramas of the world's poet, made palpable without the blendishments of decoration or scenery by the voice of the surviving artist of the Kemble name, in whose accents, softened, not subdued, by time, the elder of us may refresh great memories of classic grace, heroic daring, and sceptred grief, he shared with his brother and his sister; and those of us who cannot vaunt this privilege of age, may guess the greatness of the powers which thrilled their fathers in those efforts to which your cause—the cause of the youth of Manchester—breathing into the golden evening of life a second spring, redolent with hope and joy, have lent a more than youthful inspiration. And while I am indulging in a participation of your pleasures, let me



take leave to congratulate you on that gracious boon, which I am informed (and I rejoice to hear it, as one of the best of all prizes and all omens in a young career) your virtues have won for a large number of your fellow-workers that precious Saturday's half-holiday, precious almost to man as to boy—when manhood having borrowed the endearing name from childhood seeks to enrich it with all that remains to it of childhood's delights,—precious as a proof of the respect and sympathy of the employers for those whose industry they direct,—and most precious of all will be its results, if, being brightened and graced by such images as your association invokes, it shall leave body and mind more fit for the work and service of earth and of heaven.

Thus regarding myself as a partaker at least in thought and in spirit, of the various benefits of your association, I would venture to regard them less as the appliances by which a few may change their station in our external life, than as the means of adorning and ennobling that sphere of action in which the many must continue to move; which, without often enkindling an ambition to emulate the immortal productions of genius, may enable you the more keenly to enjoy, and the more gratefully to revere them; which, if they do not teach you the art of more rapidly accumulating worldly riches; and if they shall not—because they cannot—endow you with more munificent dispositions to dispense them than those which have made the generosity of Manchester proverbial throughout the Christian world, may insure its happiest and safest direction in time to come, by habituating those who may dispense it hereafter, to associate in youth, with the affection of brotherhood, for objects which suggest and breathe of nothing but what is wise, and good, and kind. It may be, indeed, that some master mind, one of those by which Providence, in all conditions of our species, has vindicated the divinity which stirs within it, beyond



the power of barbarism to stifle, or education to improve, or patronage to enslave, may start from your ranks into fame, under auspices peculiarly favourable for the safe direction of its strength; and if such rare felicity should await you, with how generous a pride will you expatiate on the greatness which you had watched in its dawning, and with how pure a satisfaction will your sometime-comrade, your then illustrious townsman, satiated with the applause of strangers, revert to those scenes where his genius found its earliest expression, and earned its most delightful praise. If another "marvellous boy," gifted like him of Bristol, should now arise in Manchester, his "sleepless soul" would not "perish in its pride;" his energies, neither scoffed at nor neglected, would not harden through sullenness into despair; but his genius, fostered by timely kindness, and aided by judicious council, would spring, in fitting season, from amidst the protecting cares of admiring friends, to its proper quarry, mindful, when soaring loftiest, of the associations and scenes among which it was cherished, "true to the kindred points of heaven and home."

But it is not in the cultivation and encouragement of such rare intellectual prodigies, still less in the formation of a race of imitators of excellence, that I anticipate the best fruits of your exertions. A season has arrived in the history of mankind, when talents, which in darker ages, might justify the desire to quit the obscure and honourable labours of common life in quest of glittering distinction, can only be employed with safety in adorning the sphere to which they are native; when of a multitude of competitors for public favour, few only can arrest attention; and when even of those who attain a flattering and merited popularity, the larger number must be content to regard the richest hues of their fancy and thought, but as streaks in the dawn of that "jocund day" which now "stands tip-toe

on the misty mountain's top," and in the full light of which they will speedily be blended. But if it is almost "too late to be ambitious," except on some rare occasions, of the immortality which earth can bestow, yet for that true immortality of which fame's longest duration is but the most vivid symbol,—for that immortality which dawns now in the childhood of every man as freshly as in the morning of the world, and which breaks with as solemn a foreshadowing in a soul of the most ordinary faculties, as in that of the mightiest poet; for that immortality, the cultivation of wisdom and beauty is as momentous now as ever, although no eyes, but those which are unseen, may take note how they flourish. In the presence of that immortality, how vain appears all undue restlessness for a little or a great change in our outward earthly condition! How worse than idle are all assumptions of superior dignity in one mode of honourable toil to another,—how worthless all differences of station, except so far as station may enable men to vindicate some everlasting principle, to exemplify some arduous duty, to grapple with some giant oppression, or to achieve the blessings of those "who are ready to perish!" How trivial, even as the pebbles and shells upon "this end and shoal of time," seem all those immunities which can only be spared by fortune to be swept away by death, compared with those images and thoughts, which, being reflected from the eternal, not only through the clear medium of Holy Writ, but, though more dimly, through all that is affecting in history, exquisite in act, suggestive in eloquence, profound in science, and divine in poetry, shall not only outlast the changes of this mortal life, but shall defy the chillness of the grave! Believe me, there is no path more open to the influences of heaven than the common path of daily duty; on that path the lights from the various departments of your Athenæum will fall with the steadiest lustre; that path, so illumined,

will be trodden in peace and joy if not in glory; happy if it afford the opportunity, as it may to some of you, of clearly elucidating some great truth, which being reflected from the polished mirrors of thousands of associated minds, will enrich the being of all.

There is one advantage which I may justly boast over both my predecessors in this office, that of being privileged to announce to you a state of prosperity more advanced and more confirmed than that which either could develope. The fairest prophecies which Mr. Dickens put forth, in the inspiration of the time, in the year 1843, have been amply fulfilled. The eloquent exhortations of Mr. Disraeli, in 1844, have been met by noble responses. From a state of depression, which four or five years ago had reduced the number of members to 400, and steeped the institution in difficulty, it is now so elevated, that you number 133 life members—men who have made the best of all investments, and now may count their gain; you have of paying members no fewer than 2,500—with an income of £4,000 a-year—with a debt annihilated, excepting on a mortgage, and with good hope of sweeping even that incumbrance away, and of informing the Courts of Bankruptcy, which I understand have taken shelter beneath your roof, that it will soon be time for them to look out for a more appropriate home. Before I entered this room, I was inclined to wonder how these great effects had been achieved; I knew they had been principally accomplished by the great exertions, the sacrifices scarcely less than heroic, of some few members of your society, who had taken its interest deeply to heart; but now, when I survey the scene before me, graced and adorned as it is, I certainly need be surprised at no energies which have been put forth,—I can wonder at no results that have been attained. These exertions, however, permit me to remind you, having been of extraordinary character,

you can scarcely hope to see renewed. You must look for the welfare of this institution to its younger members. To them I speak when I say, "To you its destinies are confided; on you, if not its existence, yet its progress and its glory depend; for its happiest success will not arise mainly from emancipated revenues, or the admiring sympathy of strangers, or even from a scheme remarkably liberal and comprehensive, adapted to all; and embracing the feelings of all; nor from laws admirably framed, to preserve and support its proportion and order; but from the vigorous efforts of yourselves—perpetually renewing life in its forms—without which their very perfection will be dangerous, because, while presenting the fairest shows, they may with less violence of apparent and startling transition, cease to be realities, and, instead of a great arena of intellectual exertion, may become only the abode of intellectual enjoyment and luxury—fair, admirable, graceful still; but the moving, and elevating impulse of a vast population no more! I know I wrong you in deprecating such a result as possible—a result I only imagine, to remind you that, as all momentous changes of the world have been produced by individual greatness, so all popular and free institutions can only be rendered and kept vital by individual energies—a result which nothing can even threaten but that most insidious form of indolence which is called the modesty of self-distrust,—a result against which not only the welfare of this great town, and of each stranger youth who comes to Manchester, and who may hope to find beneath the shelter of your roof a great intellectual home, but also the exigencies of the time in which we live, plead with solemn voices! They remind you that existence has become a different thing since it began with some of us. It then justified its old similitude of a journey,—it quickened with intellect into a march,—it is now whirling with science and speculation into a flight. Space is

shrivelled up like a scroll,—time disdains its old relations to distance,—the intervals between the “flighty purpose” and the deed through which thought might lazily spread out its attenuated films, are almost annihilated, and the national mind must either glow with generous excitement, or waste in fitful and enfeebling fever. How important then is it, that throughout our land, but more especially here where all the greatest of the material instruments have their triumphant home—almost that of the alchemist—the spiritual agencies should be quickened into kindred activity; that the brief minutes of leisure and repose which may be left us should, by the succession of those “thoughts which wander through eternity,” become hours of that true time which is dialled in heaven; that to a mind winged for distant scenes, conversant with the society of the great in all ages, and warmed by sympathy to embrace the vast interests of its species, the few hours in which the space between London and Manchester is now traversed—nay the little hour in which it may soon be flashed over—shall have an intellectual duration equal to the old legitimate six days’ journey of our fathers; while thought, no longer feebly circling in vapid dream, but impelled right onward with divine energy, shall not only outspeed the realised miracles of steam, but the electric visions of prophecy, and still keep “the start of the majestic world.” Mr. Canning once boasted of his South American policy, that he had “called a new world into existence to redress the balance of the old;” be it your nobler endeavour to preserve the balance even between the world within us and the world without us,—not vainly seeking to retard the life of action, but to make it steady by contemplation’s immortal freightage.

In your course, members of the Manchester Athenæum, society at large may mark, and I believe will mark, the clear indications of its progress and its



safety. While the solitary leisure of the clerk, of the shopman, of the apprentice, of the overseer, of every workers in all departments of labour, from the highest to the lowest, shall be gladdened, at will, by those companions to whom the "serene creators of immortal things," in verse and prose, have given him perpetual introduction, and who will never weary, or betray, or forsake him;—while the voluntary toils of associated study shall nourish among you friendships, not like the slight alliances of idle pleasures, to vanish with the hour they gladdened, but to endure through life with the products of the industry which fed them;—while in those high casuistries which your most ambitious discussions shall engender, the ardent reasoner shall recognise the beatings of the soul against the bars of its clay tenement, and gather even from the mortal impediments that confound and baffle it, assurance that it is winged to soar in an ampler and diviner atmosphere than invests his earthly heritage;—while the mind and heart of Manchester, turning the very alloy and dross of its condition to noble uses, even as its mechanists transmute the coarsest substances to flame and speed, shall expand beyond the busy confines of its manufactures and commerce to listen to the harmonies of the universe;—while, vindicating the power of the soul to be its own place, it shall draw within the narrow and dingy walls to which duty may confine the body, scenes touched with colours more fair and lovely than "ever were by sea or land," or trace in each sullen mass of dense and hovering vapour,

A forked mountain, a blue promontory  
With trees upon 't that nod into the world,  
And mock our eyes with air;

while it shall give the last and noblest proof of the superiority of spirit over matter, by commanding, by



its own naked force, as by an enchanter's wand, the presence of those shapes of beauty and power which have hitherto nurtured the imagination in the solitude and stillness of their realities;—while the glory of such institutions as yours shall illumine the fiercest rapids of commercial life with those consecrating gleams which shall disclose in every small mirror of smooth water which its tumultuous eddies may circle, a steady reflection of some fair and peaceful image of earthly loveliness, or some glory of cloud or sky, preserving amidst the most passionate impulses of earth traces of the serenity of heaven; then may we exult as the chariot of humanity flies onward with safety in its speed,—for we shall discover, like Ezekiel of old in prophetic vision, the spirit in its wheels!

There is yet one other aspect in which I would contemplate your Association before I enter on the more delightful part of my duty—that in which success is certain—the soliciting for you the addresses of distinguished men, some of them attached to your welfare as well by local as by general sympathy; others gladly attending on your invitation, who feel your cause to be their cause, the cause of their generation and of the future. It is that in which its influences will be perceived, not merely banishing from this one night's eminence, raised above the level of common life, and devoted by knowledge to kindness, all sense of political differences, but softening, gracing, and ennobling the spirit of party itself, so long as it must continue active. For although party's worn-out moulds have been shivered, and names which have flashed and thundered as the watchwords of unnumbered struggles for power, are now fast waning into history, it is too much to hope, perhaps to desire, until the education of mankind shall more nearly approach its completion, that strong differences of opinion and feeling should cease to agitate the scenes on which

freemen are called to discharge political duties. But the mind of the staunchest partisan, expanded by the knowledge and embellished by the graces which your Athenæum nurtures, will find its own chosen range of political associations dignified—the weapons of its warfare not blunted, but ornamented and embossed—and, instead of cherishing an ignorant attachment to a symbol, a name, or a ribbon, expressed in vulgar rage, infuriated by intemperance to madness, blindly violating the charities of life, and disturbing its holiest domestic affections,—it shall grow calm in the assertion of principle, disdain the suggestions of expediency, even as those of corruption, and partake of the refinement which distance lends, while “with large discourse looking before and after,” it expands its prospect to the dim horizon of human hopes, and seeks its incentives and examples in the tragic pictures of history. A politician thus instructed, who adopts the course which most inclines to the conservatism of establishments, will not support the objects of his devotion with a mere obstinate adherence, chiefly because they oppose barriers to the aims of his opponents, but will learn to revere in them the grandeur of their antiquity, the human affections they have sheltered and nurtured, the experiences which cluster round them, and the spirit which has rendered them vital; while he who pants for important political changes, will no longer anticipate in the removal of those things which he honestly regards as obstacles to the advancement of his species, a mere dead level, or a vast expanse redeemed only from vacancy by the cold diagrams of theory, but will hail the dawning years as thronged by visions of peaceful happiness; and, as great sentiments, like great passions, however opposite may be their superficial aspects, have their secret affinities, so may these champions and representatives of conflicting parties, at the very height of the excitation produced by

the energy of their struggle, break on a sense of kindred, if not of their creeds, at least of their memories and their hopes—embrace the Past and the Future in one glorious instant—conscious at once of those ancient anticipations with which the youth of the past was inspired, when the point we have attained was faintly discerned at the verge of its horizon by the intensest vision of its philosophy, and grasping the genial idea of the future as richest in the ever accumulating Past, which time prepares for its treasury. Then shall they join in hailing—as now we hail from this neutral eminence—the gradual awakening of individual man of every class, colour, and clime, to a full consciousness of the loftiness of his origin, the majesty of his duties, the glories of his destiny. Then shall they rejoice with us in the assurance, that as he conquers the yet desolate regions of the earth, which was given him to be replenished and subdued, the same magic by which you are here enabled to let in on the densest population the air and feeling of mountain solitude, will, in turn breathe through the opening wilderness the genial refinements of old society; that, as the forest yields to his stout heart and sturdy arm, the dominion of imagination and fancy will extend before him—their powers investing the glades he opens with poetic visions, shedding the purple light of love through thickets and groves till then unthreaded, and touching the extremest hills, when first disclosed to the human eye, with the old familiar hues of Christian hope and joy. Then, in the remotest conquests of civilisation, shall new Athenæums arise, framed on your model—vocal with your language—inspired with your hopes—to echo back the congratulations which shall be wafted to them even from this place, on each succeeding anniversary, if not by yourselves, by your children and your children's children, and yet more remote descendants, and to bless the names of those who, amidst the toils, the cares, and

the excitements of a season of transition and struggle, rescued the golden hours of the youth around them from debasing pleasures and more debasing sloth, and enabled them to set to the world, in a great crisis of its moral condition, this glorious example of intellectual courage and progress.

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ADDRESS  
OF  
LORD MORPETH, M.P.

[AFTERWARDS EARL OF CARLISLE.]

OCTOBER 22, 1846.

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[The fourth soirée in 1846 attracted by far the largest audience of the series, the number of ladies and gentlemen present being above 5,000, and on this occasion the Theatre Royal was used for dancing as well as the Free Trade Hall. The last-named building was not the present handsome structure, but the huge shed, totally destitute of architectural pretensions, which preceded it, and which was originally erected by the Anti-corn-law League for its immense meetings. Lord Morpeth, afterwards Earl of Carlisle, presided, and the other speakers were Dr. Richard Whately, Archbishop of Dublin; Mr. George Dawson; Lord Ebrington, M.P.; Mr. William Chambers, of Edinburgh; Mark Philips, M.P., and William Brown, M.P. Lord Morpeth spoke as follows:—]

I TRUST that I shall be believed when I say I appreciate my situation. Whatever may be the incidents of distinction or responsibility with which I am elsewhere invested—honoured as I am by the choice of no mean

constituency on the other side of the hills which bound your prospects—permitted as I am to bear a part in the highest councils of the State—I can in all truth assure you that I find something very new, fresh, and large in the honour of being called upon to preside at this annual jubilee of the Manchester Athenæum. The sense of honour, and let me add with as much truth, of difficulty also, is certainly not lessened when I call those to mind who have preceded me in the same post, upon these brilliant occasions. The last echoes of this assembly, which I now feel it is a hardihood in me to rouse earnest as his own spirit, of Mr. Serjeant Talfourd—again, answered to the accents deep, gentle, and why, there is something in the very name of an Athenæum which bespeaks it to be a fitting theatre for all the utterances of the bard of *Ion* and the *Athenian Captive*. Next before him, I well know that your souls must have thrilled under the spell of so potent a magician as Mr. Disraeli; even in the very hottest conflicts of party, from which we are here happily sheltered, I think it was impossible even for his most exposed victim to have been blind to the point, the brilliancy, the genius, which played about the wounds they made; but here, on this gorgeous stage, amidst this apt and congenial auditory, on the themes so familiar to him of literature, of art, of imagination, I, who could only read in cold print what he said, without all the kindling accessories of time and place, can yet easily believe how the admiration, which could not be withheld even on the barren ground of political controversy, must have been heightened almost into enchantment. And it was at the first, I believe, of these assemblies, the first at least held upon this scale of size and splendour, that its chair was filled—better it can never again be—by Charles Dickens, that bright and genial nature, the master of our sunniest smiles and our most unselfish tears, whom, as it is impossible to read without the most ready and pliant sympathy, it is impossible to know, (I at least have found



it so,) without a depth of respect and a warmth of affection, which a singular union of rare qualities alike command. I have made it my business, too, to look at what they said when they were here; but this, while it certainly has ministered very highly to my gratification, has also only added to my embarrassment; for it would be indeed an office irksome to you, and hopeless for me, to endeavour to recall in feebler expression, and fainter colouring, what was portrayed by them with so much richness and exuberance. I therefore feel that at this time of day, and, above all, in this place, it would be an impertinence in me to inculcate, that learning in any community will not prove a dangerous thing—that commerce, which has formed, and which now ennobles a community like this, is the natural ally of literature and art—that the tastes which may be here encouraged, the habits which may be here fostered, are those which give a grace and glory to the lives and characters of men. Yes, I do rejoice with the most gifted and ardent of those who have preceded me—of those who now surround me—I do rejoice over the impulses and associations which are impressed upon the times we live in, and which institutions like this, and assemblies like this, serve to rivet and transmit; I rejoice that English commerce is rising up to the height of its position, and feeling the real dignity of its calling; but this the Tuscan, this the Genoese, this the Venetian did; the worthies of our English commerce are content to be merchants, without being princes; if we have Medicis, they are not intent on seeking alliances with the thrones of Europe; their best aim will be now to raise to the same level of knowledge, of happiness, of virtue, the whole body of the people. I rejoice that here, in Manchester, beyond all dispute the first city in the ancient or modern world for manufacturing enterprise and mechanical skill, you have not been content with that display of wealth which jostles in your streets, and is piled in your warehouses; you do not

think it enough to raise factories tier upon tier, and magazines that will accommodate the traffic of the world, but you have thought it part of your proper business, too, to build and to set apart a haunt for innocent enjoyment, for useful instruction, for graceful accomplishment, for lofty thought—the shrine of Pallas Athene in a Christian land. May this long be the resort, together with those kindred and neighbouring institutions, which this does not aim to eclipse or overlay, but to encourage and excite, where all who are engaged in the business and the labours of this unparalleled hive of industry may find rest for their flagging spirits, a neutral ground for their manifold differences, invigorating food for their reason, and an impulse, onward and upward, to all the higher tendencies of our nature. I am glad to perceive that, as the benefits of the establishment are confined to no condition, no class, no denomination, so they are not exclusively appropriated even to one sex. Women have always played an important, perhaps not uniformly a beneficial part in this world's history. I believe as civilisation advances, they will play both a more recognised and a more elevated part than they have ever yet done; and I trust that among the many currents upon which the restless activity of our age is eddying along, a prominent one will be devoted to making female education sound, substantial and enlightened—all it ought to be for training those who themselves must in any case be the real trainers, as they may be the best trainers, of our citizens and our workmen. From all I can gather, the wholesome effects of your association have, by no means, been confined to its own walls or its own operations; it not only walks its own round, but is suggestive of many kindred processes; or, if I may borrow an illustration from one of the disputed problems of the upper skies, in its career of light and progress, it throws off from itself separate bodies, which harden into distinct masses, and

glow with independent lustre. Has it not been very much under the impulse of ideas struck out and caught up here, in your lecture rooms, in your social gatherings, in the more earnest friction of your discussions, by the agency mainly of your members, your officers, your founders, that the public parks, which have added so much both of material and of real beauty to your great city,—that the public baths and wash-houses, which have still deeper effects than on the mere linen and the skin,—that the attention given to sanitary regulations of every description, have owed their rise? Can you look to other sources for industrial schools, for the weekly half-holiday in warehouses, for the early closing of shops? With reference to this last topic, one indeed not remotely connected with the best interests and widest extension of this Institution itself, my attention has been especially called to a meeting which I believe it is proposed to hold on this same classic ground, by the members of the Manchester and Salford Early Closing Association. Other duties would preclude me from availing myself of the obliging invitation I have received to attend that meeting; and, indeed, I doubt whether it is a matter precisely of that kind in which a stranger ought to interfere; but if a general arrangement can be brought about between the employers and the employed, which should secure to your rising manhood a greater amount of leisure for blameless relaxation and for mental culture, no one will rejoice more cordially than I shall. You will perceive that I have not refrained from some of these obvious topics in connection with the Institution, which the part assigned to me of opening the proceedings of the night necessarily almost imposed upon me. Let me turn for a little time from the Institution to yourselves—you who constitute it,—who are its essence and its life. I perceive that one of the orators by whose eloquence you have heretofore been so much delighted, addressing himself to the youth of Manchester before

him, told them with emphasis to aspire. Far be it from me to tell them otherwise ; all who feel within them the sacred flame—who are strung for the high endeavour—who have girded themselves for the immortal race—I would address in the same terms, even in the terms of the great moralist poet, Dr. Johnson :—

Proceed, illustrious youth,  
And Virtue guard thee to the throne of Truth !  
Let all thy soul indulge the generous heat,  
Till captive Science yield her last retreat ;  
Let Reason guide thee with her brightest ray,  
And pour on misty Doubt resistless day.

It is, indeed, by such means, by patient inquiry, by diligent study, by humble-minded searching after truth, that all real knowledge is to be wooed by man, equally removed from the shallow presumption which sets up its own speculations and sophistries in the place of a conscientious reason and a disciplined faith, and from the blind bigotry which bawls down fair argument, decides against proof, and condemns without hearing. But I was saying that I did not wish, I could not wish, to damp or discountenance the purpose of your young men to aspire ; for well I know that genius is the property of no condition, the apanage of no class of men : it will often be seen to rise, like the goddess of old out of the ocean billow, from those surfaces of society where you would least expect to find it, break through all the surrounding uniformity, and shed sudden radiance round the new horizon. But, while I am ready to track its shining course, and bask in its genial warmth, in whatever orbit it may be moving, I would yet venture to remind you that there is something more admirable than genius, and that is virtue ; there is something more valuable than success, and that is duty. The hope of succeeding in the world, and of playing a shining part, may sometimes operate powerfully as an incentive,

but it is too apt to engross both the efforts and the admiration of mankind. I was struck with the import of an expression I once heard from a friend, though you will at once perceive that is not to be understood quite in its literal acceptation; the expression was, that heaven was made for those who had failed in the world. Now, all sorts of unbecoming and unamiable feelings may undoubtedly accompany and embitter failure, just as every bright and blessed quality of the heart and mind may enhance and adorn success; but to aim at success, to meet with failure, and not to grudge it, to be outstripped by a rival, and yet

To hear

A rival's praises with unwounded ear,

this is an effort and a triumph, beside which all the ordinary successes of life are mean and trivial. Success, after all, in nearly every walk of life, from the aspiring statesman to the ambitious parish beadle, unless very carefully watched, very anxiously chastened, is apt to be made up of very coarse, obtrusive, vulgar ingredients, certainly not of heavenly temperament; while there is hardly a grace of character, a spring of self-reliance, an element of progress, with which failure, not caused by our own acts, and sustained with an even and brave spirit may not ally itself. Depend upon it, in a great many instances, the world does not discover, does not examine its best; there are diamonds in Golconda more precious than any, the Pitt or the Pigott diamond, which ever blazed in the diadems of sovereigns; there are pearls in unopened shells more lustrous than any that ever shone upon the neck of beauty; the ages as they pass have known their Homer, their Raphael, their Newton, their Shakspeare; but there are prodigalities among the human creation as well as among all besides, that have never yet been fathomed; yet there has never been any thing which, except by its own fault, has



been lost or thrown away. What is the material point, to be Raphael or Shakspeare, or merely to be thought a transcendent poet, or an unequalled painter; to have conceived in the inmost soul the lineaments of the Holy Mother and the Divine Babe, the idea of *Lear* on the heath, or *Macbeth* at the banquet, or to have would-be amateurs commending the picture, or crowded audiences shouting bravo in the pit? Only impress your minds with this great truth—and bear it about with you both to your daily task and to your evening leisure, both to the privacy of your homes, and to your social musters, that it matters comparatively little to us what we may seem—it even matters proportionately little what we may do—it matters everything what we are; what we may seem is subject to a thousand accidents and misapprehensions; what we may do is under the control of circumstances; what we are is entirely under our own. We may, be all we should be; and no matter how humble the situation may be of any one among you, no matter how obscure the business which engrosses every precious hour, how insignificant the whole life's drudgery, yet in that obscure and unenvied situation, amidst that wearing and numbing drudgery, you may mould for yourselves the qualities, you may build up for yourselves the character, which princes, if they knew it, would trust, which multitudes, if they could discern it, would adore. I know that in venturing to speak upon these high topics of morality and conduct, with lips scarcely authorised, I run the risk of imperfect explanation, as well as of much misconstruction. I know it is thought that addresses delivered on such occasions are rather apt to minister too much to the pride of man—to undue adulation of the intellect. I disclaim such tendencies; when I say you may be all you should be, I do not mean to exclude from the method those aids and sanctions which are too high to be here dwelt upon, and no one feels more convinced that reason as well as



Christianity makes humility almost its prominent grace. Who would not be humble who felt, as he ought, the loveliness of virtue, and the magnificence of knowledge? I should like to ask the men who have just added another planet to our system, or, as has been beautifully said, on an earlier occasion, "who lent the lyre of heaven another string," whether their spirit does not recoil with modest awe, instead of swelling with self-sufficient pride, before the secrets of that space into which they have been permitted to throw a more far-seeing gaze than any of their fellows; and when the time shall come which to our enlarged and perfected vision shall unfold the whole bright mechanism of stars, and suns, and systems, we shall find in the laws which fix their stations, or which guide their mazes, fresh reasons to be reverent, acquiescent, and lowly. It is time, however, for me to come down from the clouds, and indeed from every thing else; I could hardly, however, have lighted on a more radiant resting-place on this earth than the present assembly. I only hope that all those who have partaken in its excitements will not merely carry away the transitory orations in which it may easily give birth, but a settled determination, followed up by a corresponding practice, to give fair play and full scope to all the best and highest purposes of which the Institution is capable; they must be carried out by associated effort, but you will hardly fail to remark, at least it is generally the case in institutions of this character, how very much of the work is done by a very few out of the whole number. Now, what we want is more of individual energy in the whole body; each of you make the work his own; and let no member of the Manchester Athenæum think that he has done his duty without having done something, according to his opportunities, to give encouragement, efficacy, and credit to an establishment he ought to be so proud to serve. On my own part I have only further to say, that if when the gay glitter of the scene has passed away,—

when the strains of music are hushed, and silence has fallen on the voice of the speaker,—any one of you in the stillness of the quiet home, or amid the clang of the daily occupation, shall have derived a single encouragement to ennobling reflections or to worthy pursuits,—still more, if any under the sting of disappointment, or a sense of the world's coldness and alienation, shall have been reminded how little it really signifies, and that failure is one of the appointed accesses to heaven,—if any word that has fallen from me shall have contributed to such encouragement or such alleviation, I shall then feel that I have not come to Manchester quite in vain.

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ADDRESS  
OF  
ARCHIBALD ALISON,

NOVEMBER 18, 1847.

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[The president of the fifth soirée was Sheriff (afterwards Sir) Archibald Alison, the historian, and he was followed by Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. Ralph W. Emerson, the American author, who was then on his second visit to England; Dr. John Bowring, Mr. George Cruikshank, and Viscount Brackley, M.P.]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—When I look around me on this magnificent assembly—when I recollect that it is, as it were, the heart and soul of Manchester itself, the centre of the commercial greatness of England—when I call to mind the splendid eloquence with which you have been addressed from this place, I know not whether feelings of pride or humility should be uppermost in my bosom; of pride that your directors have deemed me worthy to succeed the many eminent men who have already filled this chair—of humility, that I should be in most respects so unworthy to occupy their place. When I reflect on the graphic powers and touching pathos which have made the works of Dickens known wherever the English language is spoken

throughout the earth; when I recollect the brilliant eloquence and caustic energy which have rendered Disraeli the object of admiration, alike in the senate and the nation; when I call to mind the flashes of genius which glance, like reflected sunbeams, from the impetuous stream of Serjeant Talfourd's eloquence, and the graceful oratory and generous sentiments which, more even than his high descent, add lustre to the name of Morpeth,—I feel at once what a distinction is conferred, and what a responsibility is imposed, by the chair in which their too flattering kindness has now placed me. Among the many reasons for admiring the choice which the directors have made of my predecessors, it is not the least that it evinces so marked a superiority to all the distinctions of opinion and party; demonstrating that you regard literature in its noblest aspect, that of a great republic, the members of which should have only one object—the discovery of truth; who should feel no rivalry but the rivalry of doing good; and no enmity, but against the enemies of humanity. In one respect only I feel that I have some title to occupy this place—in one particular only I may perhaps be of service to some of those who hear me. Though known to you chiefly, if not entirely, by my writings, I am not in reality a literary man. Literature has been the delight, but it has not been the occupation of my life; and the works which have procured for me the high honour which I now enjoy, have been but the amusement of evenings, after days spent in the discharge of laborious duties. I can thus speak from my own experience of the possibility of uniting business and literature. I can tell you from personal knowledge of the solace it affords to a life of labour; and, forming as it were, a link between the active and speculative world, I may perhaps possess one qualification for addressing an Institution which aims at uniting the energy of commercial enterprise with the refinements of

literary thought. There is another circumstance which renders the honour now conferred in a peculiar manner grateful to me, and which I hope I may be forgiven for alluding to. I have lived so long in Scotland that it is generally believed that I belong to that country; but, though my ancestors were Scotch, I was not born to the north of the Tweed, and when your kindness recalled me to this country, it recalled me to the land of my birth. I was born at no great distance from this city, in the neighbouring county of Shropshire. My earliest recollection of the paternal home is of the solitude and seclusion of an English parsonage-house, and if any thing I have since done has rendered me worthy of your favour, it is owing to the example I then saw, and the precepts I then received. Nor has the long period which has since intervened weakened the recollections of infancy; not a long sojourn among the mountains of Scotland, nor the grandeur of the Alps, nor the beauty of the Apennines, have been able to dim the image of its surpassing loveliness. I still see in clear vision the Severn stealing through its grassy meads, the storied summits of the Caerdoc and Lawley, the woods of Acton Burnell Hill sleeping on their placid lakes; the Wrekin, arising in solitary majesty; the sun setting behind the ridge of Cader Idris. I see that the names I have mentioned are as household words to many who hear me; but if they are so to you, what must they be to me who am recalled to their vicinity, after an absence of so many years, to fill a place which the descendant of the Howards was proud to occupy. Interesting as such assemblies as this must be at all times, and in all places, there is something peculiarly appropriate for them in a great commercial city such as Manchester. There is a natural connection which has made itself manifest in every age between commerce and intellectual eminence, and the greatest steps in human improvement, the greatest marvels of human exertions have arisen from



their combination. It was to the commercial city of Tyre that we owe the invention of letters,—that wonderful and almost superhuman discovery, which first gave permanence to the creations of thought, and sends forth the “winged words” of genius to make the circuit of the globe, and charm while it endures. It was its fortunate situation on the highway from Asia to Europe, since re-opened by British enterprise, which gave its early celebrity and enduring fame to ancient Egypt; and we owe to the caravans of the desert, more even than to the power of the Pharaohs, those wonderful structures the pyramids of Cairo and temples of Luxor, which, after the lapse of 4,000 years, still stand “erect and unshaken above the floods of the Nile.”

Turn ever to the land,  
Where on the Ægean shore a city stands,  
Built nobly,—pure the air, and light the soil;  
Athens! the eye of Greece, mother of arts  
And eloquence.

And we shall find that the genius, the taste, and the fancy which have rendered the city of Minerva immortal—which have caused its name, after the lapse of two thousand years, to be adopted by an Institution animated by a similar spirit, in a distant and then barbarous land, was owing to the combined efforts of commerce and intellect, to the vicinity of the harbour of Piræus to the temples of the Acropolis. Rome herself, the mistress of the world, owed her vast and enduring dominion mainly to the energies of commerce, and we have only to cast our eyes on the map and behold her provinces clustered round the waters of the Mediterranean, to be convinced that more even than to the arms of the legions, her power was owing to the strength of the maritime cities which glittered along its shores. It was the caravans of the desert which raised those wonderful structures which still at Tad-



more and Palmyra attest the magnificence of the queen of the East, in Alexaneria, that alone a library was formed worthy of the vast stores of ancient knowledge; and when the dominion of the consuls had fallen, and the arm of the Roman could no longer defend Italy from the swords of the barbarians, the incomparable situation and commercial greatness of Constantinople perpetuated for a thousand years longer on the frontier of barbarian wilds the empire of the East. Nor has commerce in modern times fallen from her high vocation as the chief spring of social improvement, and most powerful humaniser of man. It was in the manufacturing city of Florence that a rival was found in Dante to the genius of ancient poetry; in the mercantile emporium of Venice that painting rose to its highest lustre on the canvas of Titian; Genoa sent forth that daring spirit which first burst the boundaries of ancient knowledge and exposed to European enterprise the wonders of another hemisphere. It was in Lisbon that there was at once found, in Vasco de Gama, the courage to brave the terror of the Cape of Storms, and open the ocean path to the regions of the East, and the genius of Camoens to celebrate the glorious enterprise, and for ever enshrine it in the hearts of men. Great as these achievements are, there are yet greater things than these. It is in the north that the chief triumphs of the alliance between commerce and intellect are to be found. To one commercial city of Germany we owe the art of printing—to another the Reformation. The first has rendered certain the diffusion of knowledge, the last impossible the slavery of thought. In Antwerp, the immortal genius of Vandyke and Rubens brought painting to its highest perfection. Commerce in Holland achieved a glorious victory alike over the storms of nature and the oppressions of man. But why should we travel to other times and distant lands for a confirmation of the same eternal truth? In this age, in this country, in this city, its

highest glories have been found. Here it was, and here alone, that a successful stand was at last made against the aggressions of revolutionary France; it was the discoveries of Watt, of Arkwright, and of Crompton, that arrayed the forces which the arms of Napoleon were unable to subdue. It was a company of British merchants which subjected the vast realms of Hindostan to the sceptre of Queen Victoria, and exhibited the prodigy of a single *Delhi Gazette*, announcing in one day the capture of Caboul, in the heart of Asia, and the submission of the Celestial Empire under the walls of Nankin. It is the energy of British commerce which has peopled the western hemisphere with our descendants, and is spreading through the eastern Archipelago the wonders of European art, and the blessings of Christian civilisation. Hitherto the progress of improvement has ever been from east to west—from the rising to the setting of the sun; but the merchants of England have for the first time in the history of the world rolled back the tide of civilisation to its sources and returned its blessings to the regions of the sun. It is their efforts which have realised the beautiful vision of the poet:—

Come, bright Improvement! in the car of time,  
And rule the spacious world from clime to clime:  
Thy hand-maid Art at it shall every wild explore,  
Trace every wave, and culture every shore.  
On Erie's banks, where tigers steal along,  
And the dread Indian chants a dismal song;  
Where human fiends on midnight errands walk,  
And bathe in brains the murderous tomahawk;  
There shall the flock on thymy pastures stray,  
And shepherds dance at summer's opening day:  
Each wandering genius of the lonely glen  
Shall start to view the glittering haunts of men,  
And silence mark, on woodland heights around,  
The village curfew, as it tolls profound!

Why do I recall thus anxiously to your recollection the prodigies effected by the union of commerce and genius in times past? Not to nourish a senseless, it may be a hurtful vanity, but to impress you with a serious, even a solemn sense, of the responsibility under which you were acting. I would have you recollect what has been done by your predecessors, what will be expected of you by your descendants. Midway between the past and the future, possessed of greater advantages, wielding greater power, than ever yet was enjoyed by man, will you fail in your glorious mission? But how is that mission to be fulfilled but by the elevation of the minds of the middle classes of society who are entrusted with its power. It is too late now to inquire on what basis the foundations of government should rest in this country. The foundations *are laid*: we have only to raise the superstructure. It is in cities such as this that the moving power which ultimately obtains the direction of affairs resides; it is in assemblies such as this that the spirit which animates them is elicited; but it is in institutions such as this that the wisdom which should guide them is alone to be found. It has been truly said by the poet—

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

And it is precisely to guard against that danger that such institutions as this are valuable; for no one has ever said that "*much* knowledge is a dangerous thing." The people everywhere have this dangerous amount of information; it is in the extension and elevation of that information that the antidote to this peril is to be found. "Knowledge," says Lord Bacon, "is power." He has not, observe, said it is either wisdom or virtue. But though not itself wisdom or virtue, it may be rendered such, and it was to secure that direction that you are associated. Great indeed are the results to public and private welfare which may be expected from the spread

and success of institutions in which the real treasures of genius are to be found; the fortunes of our descendants are wound up with their success. I know of no security for good government in a popular community, but in the wisdom, moderation, and public spirit of the governed; and I know not where these virtues are to be learned but in the great book of experience, which is here laid open to your view. When a philosopher was asked, When does your education cease? he answered, "With my life." And well might he say so, for what is life but the education for eternity? Viewed in this light, this association is, indeed, an educational institution; but it is one where education in its highest sense is to be obtained—that education which does not end at seventeen, but at seventy; which does not merely aim at giving the rudiments of knowledge to youth, but the means of information, the power of elevating the thoughts, of gratifying the taste, to the whole of life. The great question of general instruction is viewed in too narrow a light, if it is regarded in relation only to the training of youth, or giving the means of reading to the poor. What is most required in society at this time is a proper training of the minds, and elevation of the feelings, and extension of the information of the middle and elevated classes, and that not in youth only, but through the whole of life. Unless this is done the expansive force from beneath will become too strong for their direction, and the vast impulse of knowledge, instead of being the moving power which is to put in regulated and blissful activity the great machine of society, may induce the frightful explosion which is to shiver it to atoms. It is in the spread of real knowledge, aided by institutions such as this, that the fly-wheel is to be found. "Whatever," says Dr. Johnson, in words which can never become trite, so noble is the sentiment they convey, "whatever makes the past, the distant, and the future predominate over the present, exalts us in

the scale of thinking beings." If we reflect on these memorable words, we shall form a fitting conception of the capacity of that soul which, able to look back through time, and forward to eternity, is limited only in its present flight by the bounds of space. "Fully," says Gibbon, "to appreciate this important truth, let us attempt in an improved society to calculate the immense distance between the man of learning and the illiterate peasant. The former by reading and reflection multiplies his own experience, and lives in distant ages and remote countries; while the latter, rooted to a single spot, and confined to a few years of existence, surpasses but very little his fellow-labourer the ox, in the exercise of his mental faculties." In vain does an utilitarian age ask what is the use of such pursuits?—what benefit is thence to arise to society?—in what respect is the sum of human happiness to be increased by this extension? What, I would ask, in reply, is the use of the poetry of Milton—the music of Handel—the paintings of Raffaele? Why are the roses more prized than all the harvests of the fields, though they are beautiful alone? To what does every thing great or elevating in nature tend, if not to the soul itself—to that soul which is eternal and invisible, and never ceases to yearn after the eternal and invisible, how far soever it may be removed from whatever affects only present existence, and which, in that very yearning, at once reveals its ultimate destiny, and points to the means by which alone that destiny is to be attained? Regarding, then, literature in its highest aspect, that of the great fountain not merely of useful knowledge, but of elevated and generous sentiments, let me earnestly entreat you to apply vigorously to that which can alone give the passport to its whole treasures—the study of foreign languages. Charles V. said, that whenever he read a foreign language he felt a new soul within him. It is the command of them which is the great cause of the difference between men of cultivated



minds and mere ordinary information. How great soever may be the genius of our own writers, there must ever be a certain sameness in their conception. Foreign reading is like foreign travelling: you receive new ideas at every step. No amount of information derived merely from the writers of our own country can supply the deficiency. No mind can become enlarged which is not familiar with the thoughts of remote ages and distant countries: and no commerce can be extensive in which foreign is not largely exchanged for domestic produce. It is by the collision of flint and steel, not by steel alone, that fire is struck. It is by promoting this interchange of ideas that commerce in every age has so powerfully contributed to the advancement of the human mind. Nor is such knowledge of less vital importance to individual and domestic happiness. "All our faults," says an author who knew the human heart well, "spring from the inability to be alone." Every day's experience must convince you of the truth of La Bruyere's remark. Thence comes the desertion of domestic life, the neglect of its duties, the careless parent, the disobedient family, and that wretched craving after external excitement which converts the paradise of home itself into an arid wilderness. But can that man ever be alone, can he ever dread solitude, who can converse alternately with Virgil and Cicero, with Tasso and Ariosto, with Racine and Corneille, with Scott and Shakspeare. To such a man is really true, what Cicero said of Scipio Africanus, "Never less alone than when alone; never less at rest than when at rest." This is the real exclusive society—this is the magic circle, which, indeed, dignifies humanity; for it interests without corrupting, and elevates the feeling without hardening the heart. But no haughty pride guards its approach—no zealous spirit forbids its entrance; the portals are open to all, but they are to be passed only on the wings of perseverance. Be not deterred then, by the difficulties of the ascent, the toil



requisite to reach the summit. Of such study may truly be said what has been so finely spoken of the moral uses of affliction—"It is like the black mountain of Bender in India; the higher you advance, the steeper is the ascent; the darker and more desolate the objects with which you are surrounded; but when you are at the summit, the heaven is above your head, and at your feet the kingdom of Cashmere." I add only one other consideration. I see with pleasure around me not merely an assembly of men, but a large proportion of the other sex. To the latter I would, in an especial manner, address myself, ere we part, and that not in the spirit of chivalrous gallantry, but of serious moral duty. I will do so in the words of a man second to none that ever existed in intellectual power, and least of all liable to be swayed in matters of thought by the attractions of your society. "It is my decided opinion," said Napoleon, "that every thing in the future man depends upon his mother." If any thing was requisite to support so great an authority, I would add, that as far as my own observation has gone, I have never either heard or read of a remarkable man who had not a remarkable mother. If, then, study is requisite for the men who are to rule the world, what must it be for you who are to form the men? whose blessed province it is to implant those early lessons of virtue, and inculcate those early feelings of religion and habits of perseverance, on which the whole future fate of life depends, and which, by the blessing of God, when once received, will never be forgotten? Thus it is that you will duly discharge your inestimable mission; thus it is that you will contribute your part to the great work of human advancement; and thus it is that you will regain in home the lost Paradise of Eden, and be enabled to say of it, in your last hours, "This it is which has softened the trials of Time; this has, indeed, been the gate of heaven."

S P E E C H  
OF  
R I C H A R D C O B D E N ,

NOVEMBER 18, 1847.

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[Mr. Cobden's third speech at the Athenæum soirées, delivered at the fifth of the series, held on the 18th of November, under the presidency of Sheriff (afterwards Sir) Archibald Alison, the historian, is valuable from its embodying something of the early history of the Athenæum, and for its extremely interesting narrative of his tour on the Continent, undertaken after the repeal of the Corn Laws.]

It gives me great pleasure that, upon the first occasion after more than twelve months' absence from Manchester, I have the happiness of meeting my fellow citizens in the Athenæum. I should have been more pleased if we had met during the time when the Athenæum, as well as other institutions in the town, were in a more flourishing state. But I believe your society has only been sharing the general depression : it is a kind of barometer always indicating the state of prosperity or adversity in Manchester ; and I have not the least fear, whatever passing storms may follow, but that this institution has taken such solid hold and such deep root in this community, that it will continue to flourish in spite of all adverse circumstances that can befall it. And if I call to your mind, and I give for the

information of our respected chairman, the origin of this society, and its progress in times past, neither you nor he will for a moment doubt its future prosperity. The Athenæum originated in 1835. The idea was first conceived of forming a small union of young men in Manchester, who should meet—where think you? In a room over a stationer's shop! The first idea, I believe—I am only doing justice to a departed friend of this institution—the first idea of the Athenæum originated, I believe, with the late Mr. Walker, surgeon, who, during the last year, has fallen a victim to his professional duties in the fever which has afflicted this town. In the year 1835, four or five men, without influence in Manchester, met round a table to talk over a project of such an association as I have described. I was one of those individuals. We determined, as we had little influence ourselves in Manchester, and were very little known, we would find out some one who had influence, and I was deputed to call upon a gentleman, whose acquaintance I then made for the first time, the late Sir Thomas Potter. He, with that sagacity, with that instinct, which characterized him, at once seized the proposition; and he, with his energy, lifted us out of the little room at the back of the stationer's shop, and conceived the grand institution which you now have at your disposal. He said, "You must not be content with a little society; we must have a large building, and I will put down my own name for £500 for the building fund, and I will find out some more who will subscribe to it." (Cheers.) He put his hand into his pocket and drew out a list—a list which some people called a list of his victims—(a laugh)—I believe our worthy mayor stood at the head of that list—(cheers)—and these were the well-known names in Manchester to whom our late respected fellow-citizen always applied—and never applied in vain. (Applause.) We had a public meeting shortly afterwards. I remember an American of some eminence was in Manchester at the

time; he attended that meeting, and he said to me the day after, "I shall never despair of the old country, after seeing that meeting last night; for, where there is such a spirit among the merchants and manufacturers of Manchester to benefit the younger portions of the community, there is what will save this country here yet." (Cheers.) In the course of about three weeks £10,000 was raised in Manchester by subscription, towards building this Athenæum.

Now, gentlemen, I mention these facts to you for your encouragement and for your stimulus. You have now—I mean the members of the Athenæum—a splendid building for your meetings, You have a great fame and a character to maintain. I am not sure, in fact, that we have not got more fame than we deserve for the Athenæum. I am not sure that distinguished men who have come among us to preside over us have not given to the world a higher reputation for the Athenæum than even its present members aspire to. We are not a learned society; we never intended to be so. We simply sought to furnish the opportunity for the men engaged in active business in Manchester to follow, through the intervals of hard labour, intellectual pursuits and intellectual relaxation. We do profess to hold out the opportunity and the means for those who have a taste for severer studies, to follow that taste in the Athenæum; but we do not disguise from ourselves that the great scope and ability of the Athenæum must be to furnish agreeable relaxation and to promote useful and amiable occupation among the members. Well, gentlemen, there is enough in this, and quite enough, to give this institution claims upon the attention and support of every man engaged in business in Manchester. When I was a youth in London, starting in business, the whole metropolis did not furnish such an institution as that which the Athenæum gives to you in Manchester. We had no means of meeting young men of kindred tastes, no means of pursuing studies, or

of hearing lectures; we were confined to our own firesides; we had no stimulus, no competition among young men of our own rank and standing, such as you have in Manchester. But there is a department in the Athenæum which, we will not disguise from ourselves, furnishes probably the greatest attraction to the Athenæum—that is the news-room. Well, gentlemen, I maintain that to read that page of contemporary history, the daily paper, is a worthy vocation for a man engaged in business in this community. I participate in the sentiments which have been uttered by our respected chairman, that the study of daily events, the informing your minds upon questions affecting the destinies of your country, and the destinies of the world, is a necessary duty for free citizens; and if the Athenæum had no other advantage than that of possessing a first-rate news-room—that of itself would, in my opinion, entitle it to the support of the young men engaged in business in Manchester. (Cheers.) I say it is not necessary we should all be learned men; and I do not wish any young man to feel deterred from joining the Athenæum because he thinks he will find there others who may be more learned than himself. He will find men of all ages in the Athenæum; for we will not disguise it, it is not merely young men who are there, but there are many married men. And I maintain that the man with a family, after the toils of the day, if he passes into the Athenæum, and thence carries a book with him, or furnishes himself with the information given in the latest news from the columns of the newspaper, when he returns to his family, there is far more likely to be found at the tea-table of that man intelligent intercourse, than without it. The conversation of the children, and even their amusements, will partake of a more elevated character than those of the man who has no such tastes. Viewing this institution, therefore, without the pretensions which have sometimes been set up for it, it is worthy of the support of



the men of Manchester; and it is in the hands of the men—the young men of Manchester—to support this institution. If it has gone back a little this last year, I attribute it entirely to the state of the trade of the district; and if it is to be maintained in future it must be by the strenuous co-operation of the members of this society.

Gentlemen, you must keep from this institution all spirit of faction, and of rivalry, and of petty jealousy—those vices which are unworthy of the men who associate in such an institution as the Athenæum. I do not speak with regard to anything that exists, for I pledge you my honour I am not aware if there is anything of the kind to reproach you with. What I wish is this, that in times of depression, when the directors may probably have difficulties to contend with, that the members shall feel a sympathy for them, and shall participate in their difficulties, instead of finding fault, because—when the funds probably are deficient, and probably creditors clamorous—there may not be every accommodation given, or everything done which they may wish. I ask you to make allowances under such circumstances, and to put shoulder to shoulder with the directors; and, having but one common object, the success of the Athenæum, to be prepared to do that which men must always do that unite for any object—make a self-sacrifice in order to accomplish a benefit for all.

Now, gentlemen, I have, as usual, made you a few practical observations. Before I rose, I said to a friend of ours in the room, “What shall I talk about?” He said, “Tell them something about your foreign travels, because it will be a variety.” I said, “Where shall I begin—I have been from Cadiz to Nishni Novgorod, and where shall I begin?” “Tell them,” he said, “something about Spain and Russia, the two extremities.” Now, gentlemen, I ought not to speak of my trip to the continent at all without taking the first public opportunity



of expressing my thanks, as an Englishman, for the cordial welcome I have received in every country I have visited. I say "as an Englishman," because it is something rare in the annals of the world that a foreigner should visit nearly every country upon the continent, and there find men prepared in public to sympathize with principles which he was identified with in this country, and those principles merely applied, as we thought, to the domestic concerns of this country. Now, without entering into a question which even here may be a controverted point, I merely say that the fact of an Englishman being so received proves—it is one proof, at all events—that we are enlarging the circle of our sympathies, that the sphere in which practical action is working is widening in our day, and instead of viewing each other with the narrow jealous spirit which formerly distinguished the different nations of Europe, that we are preparing to take a wider and more generous view of the interests of ourselves and the interests of our neighbours, and that we are approaching that time when we shall think our interests are identical. Well, gentlemen, at these two extremities of my peregrinations, I observed a curious feature. I found the oriental type at the two opposite extremities of Europe. I found in Andulasia the remains of the Moors, as evidenced in the dress, in the habits, and in the architecture of the people; and I found at Moscow the remains of the Tartars, as evidenced by precisely the same signs, in the dress, in the buildings, and in the habits of the population. But at these two extremities, and in every intermediate place—in every intermediate country through which I travelled—I was constantly forced to this reflection—we are so similar, there is so little real difference between us in our moral attributes, at all events we are so identically the same, having the same sympathies and the same domestic traits, having the same affections, likings, and dislikings, my constant wonder was, what is it that has made these different

families of men, placed upon this continent, enemies? There is a little comedy which has lately been represented with great success in Paris, called *Faute de s'entendre*—the want of an understanding. This little comedy arises thus:—The parties upon the scene begin with a misunderstanding of the several objects of the parties playing, and they go through two or three acts in which they are subjected to the greatest possible perplexities, and a great deal of real suffering, but in the end it is found that it has altogether been a mistake, and that if they had only understood each other there would have been no occasion for anything of the kind. Now I believe there has been the same common failing among the governments of Europe. There has been the “want of an understanding.” We have been playing, not a farce, or a comedy, but a sad tragedy, at times, and all for “want of an understanding” that we have but one common object after all. (Applause.) And if you could only find the means—and we are sometimes vain enough in Manchester to fancy we have discovered the key to that secret—by which you could show to the different nations of Europe that their interests are identical, and their objects the same, you would be conferring the greatest blessing upon humanity that has ever been diffused since the creation of the world.

Now, gentlemen, in that most interesting country, interesting to us all, and with which we are all so much identified in our habits and in our literature, I mean Italy, I find there a new life springing up; and when I inquired how it was that Italy began to make itself heard and felt in the rest of Europe, I came to the conclusion, from all I could observe, that it arose from the quiet progress of thought and of intelligence arising out of the education of the people. I found, to my astonishment, in almost every town, even in towns of 15,000 or 20,000 inhabitants, several infant schools, supported by voluntary contributions, superintended by Italian nobles; and I

saw a school at Turin where a marquis attended daily, rode upon a rocking-horse with the children, and joined them in their play, and to his honour I mention it, for he would not be ashamed of its being known to you all. His name is D'Azeglio. He is brother to that Marquis D'Azeglio whose writings you have lately seen upon the present state of Italy. Then you have in Italy, as you have always had, leading minds, great and striking individualities in every town, men who have been engaged in writing and treating upon every question of social importance. You have in every town in Italy men who are taking a deep interest, not only in schools, but in prison discipline, and in every question relating to the moral condition of the people. As regards political economy, I was amazed at the number of people that I found in Italy who had sympathized with our practical efforts and discussions upon the subject of political economy. Every lawyer, every councillor in Italy, studies political economy as a part of his education, and hence arises the great interest that was taken upon the subject upon which we have been so long and so arduously engaged in England. It is, gentlemen, to this quiet influence, and not to violent outbreaks, that the present state of things has come round in Italy. Violence and revolution retarded their present progress, but I trace to institutions kindred to this, though not the same as this, all the progress that has been made in Italy, and I join with the worthy chairman in saying that it is by the progress of the human mind alone governments can make progress, or that good government can be maintained at all. I join with him in saying that, in these times, public opinion will control government. I go further. I say, from my experience, and from my observations in Europe, there is no such thing as despotism in the old sense of the word; that public opinion rules more or less everywhere. It rules better in proportion as it is wiser; but give me the combined

ratio of the intelligence and morality of any people, and I will give you the character of their government, no matter what its form may be. (Applause.) If you ask me, after my long tour on the continent, what it is that recurs to my memory with the greatest pleasure, I am bound to say it is Italy and the Italians; not merely their monumental remains—it is not merely that they have there the proofs and the ruins—not merely that they have there the proofs that they have given to Europe and mankind twice that civilization they have possessed—but it is the character of the mind of their most distinguished men at this day. I like intercourse with living minds. I will pass by the aqueducts and columns and ruins; yet I find among the Italians at the present time—not the mass of the people—I will not pretend to say so—but you find in Italy some of the most amiable, accomplished, and interesting men that are to be found in Europe. It is these men, and the intercourse that I had with them whilst in Italy, which I tell you frankly comes back on my memory with the greatest pleasure of anything I experienced abroad. I argue that the present effort which is being made in Italy will progress just in proportion as the people become more and more enlightened. You have there, as you always had, a first-rate national quality in the race of the people; and if this people are but left to themselves, if they have that privilege which we claim for ourselves, if the Italians are left to work out their own regeneration, I do not doubt that the people, who have twice given civilization to the world, have the power within themselves again to work out their own redemption. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, I join in the remarks made by your excellent chairman, with respect to the study of the modern languages; I can speak to you feelingly on that topic. Oh! if I had my time over again, and was placed in the situation in which many of the young men here present are placed, I would not arrive at the age of five-and-



twenty without being a perfect master of the French, German, and Italian languages. Of French, I will say, it is the language of communication for all Europe. Now, I do not pretend to say that one hundred years hence the French language will be spoken by so many people as the English language will be; I believe quite the contrary; I believe that the English language is destined to be spoken by more people than any other that ever existed; but the French language has become, and is likely to continue, the language of communication throughout Europe. For instance, in all my travels in Spain, Italy, Germany, Russia, Austria, I had never a letter of introduction to any man, I never met any man with whom I wished to communicate that did not speak French familiarly. I could not say as much of the English. The Spaniards and Italians have a much greater facility for speaking the French language than they have for speaking the English. I speak of the Spanish and Italian people; their language has a strong affinity for the French language. In Germany, French is spoken more generally than English. In Russia, among educated men, French is the universal medium of communication. Now, gentlemen, you are coming to the time when it will not be merely the selected few who travel to the continent. I expect to see the time when the operatives from this part of the world will go in their cheap trains to Paris. (Applause.) Within twelve months of this time the railway communication from Boulogne to Paris will be completed, and you may go regularly from the capital of England to the capital of France in ten hours. There will be opened up by that means an intercourse between the two peoples, which I very, very much desire to see. I want to see the different peoples of the world married, instead of those marriages of princes that create such a noise and tumult in Europe. (Loud applause.) Well, gentlemen, I returned home as I went, satisfied that it is in institutions

like these, that you not only find the great distinctive character of the English people from the whole of Europe, but that it is here, in the improvement of the mind, amongst the young men and the adults, that you must seek to find the superiority which, in some respects, we do possess over the rest of Europe. We have credit with the people of the continent for having within ourselves the spirit and habit of association. How could that spirit of association be better employed, how could it be better directed than in the maintenance of institutions such as this; and if it cannot be maintained in support of an institution such as this, you will not be able to maintain it in support of any other movement whatever.

Gentlemen, I exhort you to maintain this and kindred institutions on every ground, public and private. I have had many changes, I have seen many phases of society, probably as many as most. I do not say this egotistically, because I am merely now going to elucidate a thought. I have seen many phases of society, I have had many excited means of occupation, and of gratification; but I tell you honestly and conscientiously, that if I want to look back to that which has given me the purest satisfaction of mind, it is in those pursuits which are accessible to every member of the Athenæum. I have not found the greatest enjoyment in the exciting plaudits of a public meeting; I have not found the greatest pleasure or interest in intercourse, sometimes with men of elevated sphere abroad, where others would think probably that you were privileged to meet such men; I come back to you conscientiously to declare that the purest pleasures I have ever known are those accessible to you all; it is in the calm intercourse with intelligent minds, and in the communion with the departed great, through our books, by our own firesides. (Loud and long-continued cheering.)



S P E E C H  
OF  
MR. RALPH WALDO EMERSON,

NOVEMBER 18, 1847.

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[Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson, the American poet and essayist, was present at the fifth of the soirées in 1847. He followed Mr. Cobden, and delivered the ensuing speech, the briefest, and yet in many respects the most eloquent and the most inspiring of a splendid series:—]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I feel myself a little in the position of some countrymen of mine who I remember, when a deputation of the Sauks and Foxes came to the capital of Massachusetts, and were received there at the senate house by Governor Everett. Impressed a little with the greatness of the population about them, and certainly with the new splendour and wealth of such cities as they had passed through and entered, the red men said, after hearing the congratulations of the governor, "We have no land to put our words on, sir, and yet our words are true." I have no land heretoput my words on, and yet I hope they are true.

It gives me great pleasure to see this anniversary of the Athenæum; it gives me pleasure to sit near the distin-

guished gentlemen who have addressed you; and yet it has seemed to me whilst they spoke, that for many years I have never been near to them. The arguments of the league and its leaders are known and repeated in every quarter of the globe, and certainly by all the friends of free-trade in America. And, sir, when I came to sea, in the ship which brought me here, on the table in the cabin lay your History of Europe; the property, I suppose, of the ship, or the captain, as a sort of programme or play bill to instruct the seafaring New Englander, who was coming to Europe, in the events and institutions that awaited him here. I have seen other gentlemen here this evening whose gaiety and genius is certainly almost as familiarly known to my own friends and countrymen as it is here. Why, the drawings, caricatures, and the wit of *Punch*, go duly every fortnight, to every book shop and every book club, and to every boy and girl, in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. So I find it with all the names with which your institution and your present meeting presents me.

But these compliments, though true, would come better from those who better understood and felt these matters than I can hope to do; and I pass from that to what I know will interest those gentlemen very much more than their own praises—namely, that which really draws me to the shores of England—that which is good on holidays and working days—that which is good in one century and in another century; that which draws the solitary American to wish to see England, sir, is the moral peculiarity of the Saxon race. It is that commanding sense of right and wrong, it is that honesty of performance, it is that which is the imperial trait which has given to this race the sceptre of the globe. I see it equally as the foundation of the aristocratic character of the people, which, though it may perhaps sometimes lose sight of its origin, and wander into strange vagaries, if it lose that moral quality, will be

paralysed, and cease to be ; and I see it no less in the honesty of performance in trade and manufactures, and in the mechanics' shops, in that solidity and thoroughness of work which is the national badge. This conscience is one element ; and the other is that habit of friendship, if I may so call it, that fidelity of fellowship, which I see here running through all classes, that elects all worthy individuals to a fraternity of kind offices, filling them with a warm, staunch fellowship and support from year to year, from youth to age ; and which stands in very strong contrast with the short-lived connection, with the excess of courtesy and the very superficial attachments which exist in other races—an affection, an attachment, a permanence of regard, which is alike lovely and honourable to those who render and to those who receive it. (Applause.)

Mr. Chairman, in looking at these traits in the English character, it has given me great pleasure to observe that in this time of commercial disaster, in this time of gloom, of bankruptcy, of affliction, and of beggary in the neighbouring districts, the Athenæum has chosen to hold, with its usual spirit, this its anniversary. It seemed to me, because of these peculiarities which belong to the English character, a certain duty well becoming the managers of the institution ; they seemed to me to say, "For all that has come and gone, yet we shall not abate the spirit or the splendour of our annual feast ; no, not by an oak leaf ; no, not by a chaplet." And I wish to say that I was brought up from my childhood in the belief that this British island from which my forefathers came was not a lotus garden, was not a paradise of serene skies and roses, a masque and merriment all the year round ; no ! but a cold, foggy, mournful country, bearing no fruit well in the open air, but robust men and virtuous women, and these, too, of a certain wonderful fibre and endurance—a certain people whose very good qualities were not very swift to show themselves—whose virtues,

as I was told, never came out until they quarrelled. (Laughter and applause.) I was told, to use a country phrase of ours, that they did not strike twelve the first time—(laughter)—good lovers they were, and good haters they were: that you could not know much of them till you had seen them long, and could not know anything good of them until you had seen them in action; in their prosperity, it was said, they were apt to be a little moody, a little nervous and dumpish, but that in adversity they were grand. (Laughter.) And I ask you if the wise ancient did not hold in less esteem that bark which was parting from its native port with all colours flying, than that ship which was a proved sailor, which was coming back with battered sides, and torn canvass, and stripped of all her banners, yet having ridden out the storm?

And so I felt towards this aged England. When I see her now, that the possessions, the trophies, the honours, and also the infirmities of a thousand years are gathered around her, connected, irretrievably as she is to so many ancient customs not suddenly to be changed; oppressed as she is by the transitions of trade, by the new and all-incalculable modes, and fabrics, and arts, and machines, and competing populations; yet, with all this pressing upon her, that she is not dispirited, not weak, but strong, very well remembering that she has seen many dark days before, knowing with a kind of instinct that she can see, with her old eyes, a little better in a cloudy day; and in the battle, in the storm, and in calamity, feeling a stout vigour and a pulse like a cannon. (Applause.) When I see this—when I see that in her old age she is not decrepit, but is still daring to believe in her power of endurance, of expansion, then I say “Hail, mother of nations, mother of heroes, all hail; still equal to the time, with a strength still equal to the hour, with a spirit wise to entertain, and swift to execute, a policy that the heart and mind mankind at this moment requires, and

thereby hospitable to the foreigner, and a true home to her own generous and thoughtful children" So be it; long, long be it so from age to age! If it is not so—if her courage is to go down with the momentary calamities of her commerce and her trade—I will go back to the capes of Massachusetts and to my little Indian stream, and say to my countrymen, "The old race is all gone, and if the hope and elasticity of mankind exist, they must be found on the ranges of the Alleghanies, or nowhere." (Loud applause.)

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ADDRESS  
OF  
LORD MAHON, M.P.

[AFTERWARDS EARL STANHOPE.]

NOVEMBER 11, 1848.

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[Lord Mahon, M.P., now Earl Stanhope, the author of the History of England to the Peace of Utrecht, was the president of the last of the series of Athenæum soirées. This was held in the Manchester Town Hall (and not in the Free-trade-Hall, like its predecessors) on the 11th November, 1848.]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Appearing before you as I do this evening, altogether unconnected with you in residence or in representation, a stranger personally to almost every one around me, and differing from many amongst you in views and opinions on public affairs, yet I believe that these very circumstances afford only a clear token, a more convincing proof of that link of brotherhood which should always bind together those engaged in the pursuit of arts, of letters, or of science. When you invited me to my present high position, and when



I accepted the honour proposed to me, I felt that men animated by the same desire for mental cultivation, should not be deemed strangers to each other, and that party differences should be laid aside for the time, frankly and freely, whenever the question arises, by what means knowledge may be best appreciated and most successfully diffused. I think, too, I may say that meetings like the present, besides their first main object, are also in their collateral effects highly beneficial. We are all, I think—to whatever opinions or denominations we may belong—inclined to judge too unfavourably of each other. Surely, then, it is no slight advantage of an assemblage like this, inviting to one common field of action labourers both far and near, that we should depart again with kindly feelings towards each other, and a belief in each other's rectitude of purpose in our different paths, and with sentiments of personal friendship and good-will.

The institution whose anniversary we are met to celebrate has for its object to diffuse as widely as possible the advantages derived from the study of literature and of science. In both these departments it is your object to render the library and the other means of information as ample and as well selected as they can be. Now, first, as to science, I cannot but feel it almost superfluous that I should say a single word to recommend its study to such a meeting as I see before me; for if you look around you, there you see the greatness and importance which Manchester has attained; and if you consider within how limited a period that attainment has taken place, you cannot, I am sure, forget that this greatness and this importance are mainly owing to the discoveries of modern science. Consider what rapid advances these discoveries in science have enabled you to make. But little more than a century ago, Prince Charles Stuart, or, as called at the time, the young Pretender, marched through your town and lodged at a house standing not many years ago

in Market-street—and I ask you, if it were possible for him to revisit these scenes, do you think that he would recognize these scenes again? Do you think he would see any resemblance between the not considerable town, as it was then, which he so easily marched through, and what it has now become, this immense capital of our manufacturing enterprise, this vast mart of active wealth, this hive of incessant industry! What would he have said to those lines of factories which have since arisen on every hand, affording honourable employment to hundreds of thousands of our people, and the beneficial effects of whose produce have been felt in the remotest quarters of the globe? Why, then, I say, when I see so much progress made, and when I know that this progress has been due to science; when the discoveries of science form in fact the chronicles and annals of your city—can I then doubt for a moment that the study of science will require no recommendation or encouragement to you; that you will be desirous to explore the root of your own greatness, the groundwork of your own importance? In no place, therefore, do I think that the recommendation to the study of science can be less needed than in the city where I have now the honour of addressing you. Nor, ladies and gentlemen, let me be told, that the study of science is too hard and difficult for hours of leisure, for hours that must be taken from many other active pursuits. Let me remind those ladies who have graced and honoured us with their presence this evening—that one of themselves, one of the ladies of England—Mrs. Somerville—is not more remarkable for the depth and accuracy of her own scientific knowledge, than for the still higher and rarer gifts of making the avenues to that knowledge clear and delightful to others. There is another writer of the present day—Professor Nichol, of Glasgow, who deserves the same praise—that while his own scientific attainments are deservedly held in high estimation, he has written

popular works, which make the first steps in that science easy of attainment, and within the reach of all. I do not mean, of course, that in science, any more than in any other pursuit, high skill or proficiency is to be obtained without severe labour and exertion. I am speaking only of the first elements, of the earliest stages of science. Indeed, my own acquirements would not qualify me at all to speak of any other than these ; but speaking of these first stages or elements of science, I can state from my own experience that their study is not incompatible with other pursuits, and that they may be sources, even when pursued no further, of high intellectual pleasure.

When I alluded to science as having peculiar claims to encouragement at Manchester, I alluded, of course, to branches of mechanics, or the more practical sciences. But there are other branches of which it is the boast and pride that they are confined to no one age, to no one clime, but may exist in and receive pursuit and encouragement in all. The names of Mrs. Somerville and Professor Nichol lead me naturally to mention also that science in which they have attained such eminence, the study of astronomy. Even the first elements of that science are capable of affording intellectual pleasure of no ordinary kind. I remember that an English statesman of bygone years—one certainly not to be approved for many parts of his public life, and still less to be esteemed, or even excused for what are termed his philosophical opinions, but still a man of great and surpassing genius—I mean Lord Bolingbroke—goes so far as to enumerate it among the consolations of exile, that there is no spot of earth where the study of astronomy may not be pursued. His words on the subject are marked by so much elegance that I am sure you will forgive me if I attempt to repeat them. Lord Bolingbroke says in his “Reflections on Exile:”—“There is no part of the world from whence we may not admire those planets that roll, like ours, in different orbits, around the same central sun ; from which we may

not gaze at other objects, still more stupendous—the army of fixed stars hung up in the vast space of the universe; innumerable suns, whose beams enlighten and cherish the unknown worlds that revolve around them. And, when I am wrapped in contemplations such as these, when my soul is thus borne up to heaven, it imports me little what ground I tread upon.”

But in speaking of the praise that belongs to the study of astronomy, testimonies much higher, as well as much more ancient, than these may be adduced. There is, as I have always thought it, a most noble and striking thought of Cicero, in the first of those unrivalled essays of philosophy, which he wrote in his villa of Tusculum, and which derive their name from it; where he says that, in his opinion, the man who is able, by the force of his intellect, to calculate the movement of the great celestial bodies, and to decide in what orbits they are about to run, shows that his mind is akin in its immortal interest to that Almighty Being by whom those celestial bodies were fashioned and framed. Surely this is a striking thought from a heathen writer on whom the light of revelation had never shone. But we, who know, in the words of unerring truth, that “God created man in his own image,” can to such a thought affix a higher and holier meaning. Sure I am, at least, that in no one pursuit does man elevate himself more above his frail being here below, and manifest more clearly the immortal spark within him than in those studies of astronomy which enable him—an atom, as it were, in creation, living on a world which, after all, is but another atom amidst the far greater worlds which, at immeasurable distances, surround him—to calculate, with unerring precision, the exact second of time when one of those celestial bodies appears to eclipse the other in the sky, or to tell the precise instant of time when one of those great fixed stars should seem to shoot across the disc of his telescope. Are not these achievements of the human



mind worthy of praise, of celebration, of attainment? Sure I am, too, that no one study, if properly pursued, is better adapted to raise up our minds in humble adoration to that Almighty Being who has made us what we are, and has permitted us, though at an infinite distance, to pursue the study and knowledge of His works.

There are other branches of science which, unlike astronomy, have not flourished in many ages and countries, but which are, on the contrary, remarkable for the great and rapid strides which they have made in our own days. Not, indeed, that I mean to doubt that astronomy also has made great progress; but there are sciences which, as it were, have started into being altogether within the memory of man. Now, such a science is geology. See what great triumphs in geological discovery have been achieved, and within how narrow a space of time. We cannot, perhaps, measure this progress more clearly than by showing the altered feeling with which men of education and knowledge speak of geology. In the last century it was a not unfrequent topic of ridicule; now we find its discoveries treated with general esteem and respect. Sixty years ago, for example, Bishop Watson, certainly a man of no mean order of mind, of no slight intellectual attainments, used to say that the geologists who attempted to speculate on the internal formation of the globe reminded him only of a gnat, which might be perched on the shoulder of an elephant, and might, by the reach of its tiny puncture, affect to tell him what was the whole internal structure of the majestic animal below. Those were the words of an able and accomplished man only sixty or seventy years since. Would any man of common education or judgment use similar words now? Is there any man who would mention, but in terms of respect and esteem, the researches of such men, for instance, as Dean Buckland, or Sir Charles Lyell? See, too, what great and curious results have covered these researches. Take that very



point of the internal structure of the globe, in which it was thought that nothing beyond the reach of actual observation could ever be probably conjectured. Since that time, I need not remind very many amongst you how it has been found that when layers of matter—strata, as they are called—decline into the earth at a certain angle, and then, sometimes at a vast interval of space, reappear from the earth, again at a similar angle, and having exactly the same distance between the layers—I need not remind you that it has been found possible to calculate, with probability approaching to certainty, what must be the structure of the globe miles and miles lower than the foot of the most adventurous miner ever trod. I, of course, glance only briefly on these topics ; but you would see, if it were developed by some one better able in scientific attainment to do it justice, that even that ground on which the deriders of geology were wont to rely, has, on the contrary, afforded to geologists the scene of one of their proudest intellectual triumphs. And in speaking of geology, I would not disjoin that science which, strictly speaking, is not the same, but yet which is seldom separated from it in study—I mean the study in which Cuvier attained such mastery and skill—the study of the remains of extinct races of animals, and the reconstruction of their scattered bones, so as to afford, by analogy, no small probability of an accurate estimate as to their structure, their size, and even their habits of life. Surely, this again is one of the great triumphs of the human mind ; and surely, even in its first elements and stages, the study of this science is well worth your hours of leisure. I remember being especially struck with one of the discoveries of the school of Cuvier with reference to one of those animals which, in this instance, it happens that, so far as we know, no vestige of its substance remains—not one fragment of its bones, not a shred of its skin. Ask yourselves, then, for one moment, how was it possible to

acquire any knowledge respecting it? Does not this, at first sight, appear an almost impossible task? Do not the difficulties in the way appear insuperable? Yet these difficulties were overcome by the school of Cuvier. And how? Why, by the footprints which this animal, in its lifetime, had impressed on the sand of the sea shore. These footsteps had become petrified in the course of years; and from the examination of these, a follower of Cuvier was enabled to deduce, first, from the intervals between them, a calculation as to the size of the animal; then, from the configuration of the steps, a calculation as to the order of animals to which it might have belonged; comparisons with other animals whose footsteps are the same or similar; and thus, with no other positive vestige remaining than these petrified footsteps on the shore, the pupil of Cuvier was enabled to construct, not as a vague theory—not as a mere guess, unsupported by experiment, but as the result of analytical reasoning, and of analogies in similar cases, a most probable system as to the size, the structure, nay, even the habits of this animal. Am I, then, wrong in saying that the study which presents such results, which, even when imperfectly stated, seem so surprising, is a study that may well be recommended, and in which you cannot fail to find abundant sources of delight?

If, from the study of science you turn for a moment to the study of literature, I think I may say, that literature also will afford for your hours of leisure pursuits well worthy your attentive adoption. In the field of historical literature, for instance, how many subjects of interest may present themselves to you? Perhaps in the whole range of historical literature, there is none more fraught with interest, more full of instruction, more worthy in all ways of your attention, than the study of that city from which the name of your institution is derived—the study of the history of Athens. It has been the lot of few amongst us to explore for themselves the remains of that

renowned city; yet who is there that has cared or thought for literature at all who has neglected to explore it in story? Who is there that has not sought to familiarize his mind with those scenes—to see, as it were, with his mind's eye, the remains of that majestic temple which crowns the Acropolis, and which, even in its present state—despoiled as it has been by man, scathed as it has been by time—is yet, perhaps, superior to any other structure in the zenith of its splendour, and fresh from the sculptor's hands? Who is there that does not love to trace in description, and to see with mental eye, the prospect which presents itself from that citadel and temple of ancient Athens? Those marble columns, still standing around those sunny heights of Hymettus; that plain, divided by a scanty stream, and gray with its scattered groves of olives; and beyond, in the distance, the azure expanse of the Ægean sea. You will remember how the scene from that spot has been described by a great poet of the present day—

As thus, within the walls of Pallas' fane,  
I marked the wonders of the land and main;  
Alone and friendless, on that magic shore  
Whose arts and arms but live in poets' lore,  
Oft as the matchless dome I turned to scan,  
Sacred to gods, but not secure from man,  
The past returned; the present seemed to cease,  
And glory knew no clime beyond her Greece.

And then, you may remember that in another part of the same passage Lord Byron adds—

Who, that beheld that sun upon thee set,  
Fair Athens, can thine evening face forget?  
Not he whose heart nor time nor distant frees,  
Spell-bound within the clustering Cyclades.

It is natural that the scene should become familiar to the mind's eye of all of us; for that has been the scene

of some of the noblest writings, of the noblest works of art, and of the noblest speculations in philosophy, which the world has yet seen. In some branches of science, in many other branches of human knowledge, we have far, indeed, outrun the early Athenians ; but in some we have never yet been able to surpass or even to rival that great people, which, like its own emblem of Minerva, sprang full-grown and full-armed into life, and, at a time when society was in its infancy, produced works which even the ripest maturity of progress has never yet been able to exceed. For, ladies and gentlemen, you will remember that, great as have been the strides that we have made on other points, the world has yet to seek a sculptor greater than Phidias, or an orator greater than Demosthenes, or a philosopher greater than Plato. And there is one thing, allow me to remind you, which makes the study of Athenian history—a study which many popular works have rendered easy and delightful of attainment—come peculiarly home to you, and that is, that in ancient Athens the study of arts and the acquirements of literature were united with, and made to flourish by, the pursuits of commerce. For while these great speculations in philosophy were being pursued in the groves of the Academy, and while Phidias was raising the masterpieces of his art—at that very time, ships from every clime then known were crowding the wealthy port of the Piræus. And thus it was that with these people the pursuits of commerce were not only joined with, but formed a foundation to, the superstructure of art and literature which still continues to excite our wonder and admiration. Surely, ladies and gentlemen, this is no uninteresting study to pursue ; surely this is no unworthy model to follow. You will, I am sure, continue to remember what we are taught by the history of Athens—that the wealth which has been honourably gained in the pursuits of industry, can in few ways be more gracefully and liberally dispensed, than in enriching our native city with

works of art, and with contributions of literature and of science. In this respect, allow me to repeat my opinion, that Athens is a model which may be held out with advantage to all, and which every one may at least study with the greatest ease and pleasure.

I imagine that there are few who would doubt that studies of this kind, when fully pursued, must be a great source of improvement and pleasure; but I should wish to convince you of a fact not less certain, though I think less commonly acknowledged—that an acquaintance with these scenes of history may advantageously mingle with many details of our common life; that it may lend fresh zest to every pleasure, and enable those who possess them to taste pleasure which those who are destitute of them can never know. Let me take so common and trivial an occurrence as a summer's holiday—let me suppose a time when many amongst you, released for a time from your more active occupations, are able to enjoy a few weeks' or days' excursion; and let us see whether, in this case, some knowledge of history may not add greatly to the pleasure you would taste. The traveller passing rapidly, with all the speed which railroads now supply, through the plains of Lancashire, already familiar to him, may stop short when he arrives at Penrith or at Carlisle, being anxious during his leisure to explore the lakes of Cumberland on the one side, or the range of the Cheviots on the other. If, then, he turns to the left, and winds his way to the lakes of Cumberland, and ascends the last hill above the Lake of Derwentwater, and sees that fair prospect opened before him, he will on the summit of that hill find himself amongst the circle of Druids' stones. Now, to those who have not attended to any of the details of the Druids, as Cæsar and Tacitus record them, and as so many modern writers may, if you will, make familiar to you—to those who therefore felt no interest in these Druids, the circle of those stones would seem nothing but a ring of moss-grown fragments



of rock, and would be dismissed without a parting thought. But what pleasure would their contemplation afford to him who had imbued his mind in some measure with some of the strange traditions which relate to the rude faith of our forefathers; and how much interest would he feel among those very stones, in recalling to his mind some traces of their bloody rites or fantastic superstitions? Can you doubt for a moment which traveller, in this case, would enjoy the greater pleasure? Or, on the other hand, had the traveller gone to the right, along the foot of the Cheviots, he would, at nearly every step, encounter the remains of the majestic Roman wall. There, again, to any one who was indifferent to the history of Rome, these remains would seem only so many tufts of matted ivy, and so many heaps of cemented bricks. But he who knew something already, and might wish to know more, of the traces of that wonderful people, who fortified an island as we would a town—who constructed works whose magnificence in ruins even now astonish us—such a traveller would find ever fresh delight in every trace and vestige of antiquity which presented itself; and while enjoying not less than his companion the other delights of the excursion—the fresh spring air, or the distant view, or the other objects on his way—he would have this great additional source of interest, which the person destitute of that information would be compelled to forego.

I am, or should be, anxious, at least, if I were able, to impress upon you that literature is not a mere holiday thing, to be assumed on some special occasion, but that it may mix and blend itself with the affairs of everyday life—with our hours of pleasure, with our day's excursion—not only without diminishing a pleasure, but with a considerable increase and enhancement to it. Believe me, the pleasures of reading deserve most careful cultivation. Other objects which we have in this world, other pleasures which we seek to pursue, depend

materially on other circumstances, on the opinion or caprice of others, on the flourishing or depressed state of an interest or a profession, on connections, on friends, on opportunities, on the prevalence of one party or the other in the state. Thus, then, it happens, that without any fault of ours, with regard to objects dear to us, we may be constantly doomed to disappointment. In the pleasure of reading, on the other hand, see how much is at all times within our own power; how little you depend upon any one but yourselves. In saying this, I do not mean to forget for a moment, an entire dependence on that Almighty Being who may, if He so please, strike with blindness the studious eye, or afflict with incapacity the inquiring and discerning mind—but, subject to that Almighty power, to which, under all circumstances and at all times we are subjected—see how little the man who can rely on the pleasure of reading is dependent on the caprice or the will of his fellow-men. See how much there is within his own power and control—how by reading, if his circumstances have been thwarted by any of the fortuitous events to which I have just referred, how often it is in his power, by these very studies, to better his condition; or, failing in that, how many hours he has in which to obtain oblivion from it, when communing with the great and good of other days. Surely, then, all those who feel—and who does not?—the variety and vicissitudes of human life, ought, on that very account, if they be wise, to cultivate in themselves, and also to promote in others, an enlightened taste for reading. Of the pleasures of reading I will say that there is no man so high as to be enabled to dispense with them; and no man so humble who should be compelled to forego them. Rely upon it, that in the highest fortune and the highest station, hours of lassitude and weariness will intrude, unless they be cheered by intellectual occupation. Rely on it, also, that there is no life so toilsome, so devoted to the cares of this world,

and to the necessity of providing the daily bread, but what it will afford intervals (if they be only sought out) in which intellectual pleasures may be cultivated and oblivion of other cares enjoyed. Depend upon it that these are pleasures which he who condemns will find himself a miserable loser in the end.

It is with views like these that you have founded the present institution, to encourage and to promote, as far as possible, a taste for intellectual pleasures. This institution, on that ground deserves, and I am sure will receive, support. I am convinced that, conducted, as I trust it will always continue to be, with skill and judgment, the principle of its institution is so sound, that this principle must always prevail. You cannot expect that an institution of this kind should be equally flourishing at all periods of the fluctuating transactions of business from year to year; but of an institution on the principle which I have described, and under the management which I anticipate will continue, I will venture to predict that it will keep its ground amidst your difficulties; while, on the other hand, it will grow with your growth, and prosper with your prosperity. I believe that this institution contains within it a sure principle of vitality; because I believe that it contains within it a principle of usefulness. Sow the good seed, and rely on it that your harvest, whether retarded by a passing cloud, or quickened by a genial sun—your harvest, whether late or early, will be plentiful, and your reward secure.



THE  
SOIRÉE OF 1875.

FRIDAY, JANUARY TWENTY-SECOND.

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A soirée upon a magnificent scale was held in the Free-trade Hall this evening, to celebrate the reconstruction and renovation of the Manchester Athenæum. The spacious building was completely filled, and the numbers present must have been considerably over three thousand. The whole of the seats in the body of the hall were reserved, as also was the entire gallery. An intimation had been given that, so far as was convenient, evening dress should be worn, especially in the body of the hall. This intimation was pretty generally attended to, and, as every seat was occupied, the appearance of the hall was striking and brilliant. The importance of the occasion was also testified by the extraordinary array of reporters arranged just beneath the platform. Scarcely any attempt had been made to decorate the Hall; the single unusual feature being that on the spaces between the pillars on opposite sides of the hall a series of bannerets were suspended. On them were severally printed "Athenæum Dramatic Reading Society," "Athenæum Essay and Discussion Society," "Athenæum Chess Club," "Athenæum Gymnastic Club," "Athenæum Language Classes, and "Athenæum Library and News

Room." By a quarter past six the Hall was crowded in every part. The first part of the evening's programme was musical. As a preliminary, Mr. Henry Walker played two organ solos, an Introduction and Fugue by Mendelssohn, and an Andante by Haydn. Then the Athenæum Musical Society, under the leadership of Dr. Hiles, sang various part songs, choruses, and a madrigal with an evenness which has become habitual to them.

At ten minutes past seven the hearty cheers of those assembled announced the appearance on the platform of Mr. Samuel Ogden, the President of the Institution. He was followed by the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Right Hon. Sir Alexander E. Cockburn, who was greeted with applause again and again renewed. Upon the platform, surrounding the chairman, were the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury, Lord Houghton (better known as Mr. Monckton Milnes), Sir Edward and Lady Watkin, Sir Joseph Heron, Town Clerk of Manchester; Mr. J. A. Roebuck, M.P., and Mrs. Roebuck; Mr. C. E. Cawley, M.P.; Mr. W. R. Callender, M.P., Mrs. Callender, and the Misses Callender; Mr. Edward Hardcastle, M.P.; the Mayor of Manchester (Alderman King) and lady; the Mayor of Salford (Alderman Harwood); Messrs. Oliver Heywood, F. J. Headlam, Alderman Bennett, Councillor Goldschmidt, and Robert Neill; Dr. Marcus, Dr. J. G. Greenwood, Principal of Owens College; Alderman Alfred Watkin, Dr. Schunck, President of the Literary and Philosophical Society; Dr. Watts, President of the Manchester Statistical Society; Mr. Samuel Ogden, President of the Manchester Athenæum, and Mrs. Ogden; Mr. J. H. Nodal, President of the Manchester Literary Club; Dr. Ainsworth; Mr. Herbert Weld-Blundell, Mr. Arthur Callender; Professor Wilkins, Owens College; Messrs. George Milner, Charles Hardwick, H. J. Leppoc, W. Agnew, J. Ratcliffe, J. Neill, Oliver Heywood, J. Mitchell, B. Tinling, W. Fenton, William Nickson, J. W. Maclure, E. J. Broadfield, and



Dr. Hiles; Mr. Malcolm Ross, Mr. Newton Crane (United States Consul), Mr. George Evans, secretary of the Mechanics' Institution; Mr. T. Schofield, secretary of the Athenæum; and Mr. John Duffield, secretary to the soirée committee. Several well-known gentlemen were seated in the body of the hall and the galleries. At the commencement the chair was taken by

Mr. SAMUEL OGDEN who said he was sure they would all regard it as a work of supererogation on his part to say more than one word by way of introducing to them one whose name and fame were already familiar to them. (Applause.) They rejoiced in having as their president that evening one whose distinguished ability, whose mental attainments, and intellectual power reflected more honour upon the high and noble office he held than he himself derived therefrom. (Applause.) He (Mr. Ogden) now simply discharged the duty which devolved upon him of introducing to them the Lord Chief Justice of England. (Loud and continued applause.) He felt quite sure that before his lordship left that hall, he would receive from them the warmest assurance of their high appreciation of that kindness, which prompted him so readily to accede to their wish that he would preside over and address this assembly. (Hear, hear.) He now invited his lordship to assume the chair.

The Lord CHIEF JUSTICE thereupon took his position as chairman for the evening, and received quite an ovation, the assembly rising *en masse* and cheering vociferously. This having subsided, His Lordship said: My lords, ladies, and gentlemen,—I know not how to thank you for this friendly and cordial reception. It surpasses anything that I could by possibility have anticipated, and never to the last moment of my life will this visit to Manchester fail to be remembered as one of the choicest recollections of my life. (Applause.) And yet in one respect your friendly reception is perhaps not

altogether undeserved, for no man living can have appreciated more highly than I have done, the greatness of this city and the intelligence and virtues of its inhabitants. You have been not only one of the greatest cities that the world ever knew, but you have been the fostering encourager of scientific inventions, and the magnificent patron of art in every form. It was owing to my appreciation of these things that, when you had succeeded in obtaining what you were so well entitled to, the holding of an assize within your own town, and had erected that noble building so well adapted to be a temple of justice, and your courts were ready for opening, I at once made a point of choosing this circuit, that by coming here to assist in inaugurating justice in her new home I might pay to the people of Manchester that tribute of respect which I thought was their due. (Applause.) So when on the present occasion the directors of the Athenæum did me the unexpected honour of inviting me to attend and preside at this great gathering, although I felt there might have been some indiscretion in the selection, seeing how many others there were better qualified for that service, I felt there was but one response to make in order to show my sense of the honour done to me and my respect for you, and that was at once to place my poor services at your entire disposal. Yet I assure you it needs all your indulgence and all your encouragement to reconcile me to the position which at this moment I fill. I cannot but remember that great and gifted men throughout the world have occupied this place on similar occasions. The genius and eloquence of Dickens, the flowing language of Talfourd, and the polished elegance and felicitous diction of Disraeli linger perhaps still in the memories of those who heard them—to say nothing of so many other distinguished men who have occupied the same place. I naturally shrink from the comparison, yet I comfort myself with thinking that when we

have had the experience of thirty years of the working of the Athenæum, it is an institution which needs no flights of eloquence to recommend it to your protection and your admiration. On the contrary, it seems to me I shall best discharge the duty I have undertaken this evening in attempting no flights of oratory, but in placing before you in simple prosaic language the history, the real and substantial merits, of your institution. I cannot help thinking that in the outset the view which was taken of the scope and sphere of it was more or less an exaggerated one, and that the footing upon which it has been placed by its present directors is a much wiser and sounder one than the view originally taken of its object. For in the outset it seemed to be thought that the Manchester Athenæum was to assume the character of some great academic or scholastic institution, in which learned men were to instruct the ardent youth of this city; in which lectures were to be given which should guide and instruct youth in the paths of knowledge, of science, and of art; in which a never-failing supply of books was to furnish them with the means of walking in the paths which their guides and instructors had pointed out, This view being taken, the gifted men to whom I have referred dealt with this institution as though it had been some new university or some new great academical institution, in which science was to be taught and the glories of literature upheld; and animated with the theme their eloquence soared with expanded wings into the loftiest regions of the intellectual world. They dwelt upon the marvellous achievements of science and the great and noble productions of human intelligence and genius. It would have been a thousand pities if those eloquent effusions had been lost, those glowing eulogies of science, those brilliant panegyrics of literature. They enchanted enraptured audiences who listened to that

glowing eloquence with the admiration it deserved, but I doubt very much whether it did not give rise to expectations which were doomed to be disappointed. For this institution, without endowment, without funds, self-supporting upon a most moderate scale of contributions, could not supply professors or instructors to teach these things, and although the youth of Manchester were reminded in the immortal apothegm of Bacon that "Knowledge is power," and in spirit-stirring terms were urged to seek knowledge and aspire to greatness, the young men who have to do the work of the day and have only the leisure hours to spare for study and improvement could not avail themselves of systematic instruction even if it could be afforded. It is true, it was expected that lectures would be given upon particular and individual subjects, and that expectation was not altogether disappointed. But casual lectures upon isolated subjects unconnected with any systematic course of education, though they may be eminently instructive and interesting, nevertheless will not lay the foundation of solid and substantial education; and I find in the reports issued from time to time by the directors that these lectures did prove a failure, and the attendance was not adequate to support them. And when we are considering what is the value of this Institution, and in what way it should be directed, it seems to me it is most essential we should see what has been its past work, and what is best for it in the future. Don't suppose that in what I have said there is one word which I intended to be in disparagement of that most noble and useful institution. I should not be here if I did not esteem it as a most invaluable and precious boon to this city. But I have a tendency of mind to look at things according to their natural simplicity and naked truth, possibly a tendency fostered by the habits of a long judicial life in which we seek to ascer-

tain truth and look at facts divested of all illusions attached to them. It seems to me most essential to see in what way this Institution can be made most useful, and then to ask ourselves whether the directors, in the scheme they have adopted, have not done that which a sound and wise policy dictated, in order to extend the area of its usefulness and make it as beneficial as it can be to all classes of the youth of this city. You have in this city of Manchester, in your great commercial and industrial establishments, a multitude of young men taken from their homes at an early age, and plunged into the vortex of the daily business of life with their education less complete from want of opportunity or time than would be desirable for their own welfare and for the good of the community to which they belong; because I take it there is one thing about which we are all now agreed, and that is, that the better men are educated the better for themselves and the better for society. (Applause.) Amongst these young men there are to be found many of high intelligence and great ability, who would desire to do all they could in the way of self-improvement, mental culture, self-education, and increasing the sphere of their knowledge, the stock of their information, of making themselves acquainted with the literature of their country, and perhaps of other countries, but for which the requisite ease and opportunity are wanting. A young man may have no convenience for study, he may have no books for the means of supplying him with knowledge. You offer him both. You afford him a convenient locality in which he may study and read in tranquillity and ease. You offer him a supply of books from which, according to the department to which his mind tends at the moment, he may find means of instruction. Is he a man of strong and energetic mind, possessed of reasoning powers, he may seek to solve the problems of science, or he may follow philosophy in its efforts to solve the



processes of thought, or fix upon an immutable basis the great foundation of the moral law by which the world shall be governed. Is he a man of imagination; he may follow the poet in his lofty aspirations. Does he desire to be acquainted with the past events of his own country's history or that of other lands, the most approved works on the subject are at his service. Does he prefer fiction, as some of us do, in that also his desire may be indulged. The novel forms no insignificant part of literature, and from these very creations of the human intellect, provided it be not hopelessly corrupt, there is either useful information to be gathered or healthy enjoyment to be derived. (Applause.) Although these especially may not of themselves afford the means of solid, substantial, and universal catholic education, they may, nevertheless, assist young men in the pursuit of knowledge, and in their desire to become acquainted with literature. It may inspire them by the opportunities and facilities it affords, with a life of study and of intellectual pleasure, the greatest after the affections of the heart, of all the pleasures of which the human mind is capable. (Applause.) But let me now suppose that I have got a young man of a different sort to deal with. It is not every man who is gifted with the powers and faculties of mind and thought. Some men are indolent by nature; some have not a talent for study; some have not a taste for literature; or, it may be, that worn and weary with the toil of the day, a young man may not have energy of mind or body sufficient to induce him to betake himself to study and mental toil, or even to the pleasures of literary reading. What shall you do with such a man? Nothing? Will you leave him to the tavern or the street, or the haunts of dissipation? Our directors have thought otherwise, and I commend them for the course they have pursued. (Hear, hear.) They have sought to make the young man so circumstanced a

pleasant home. They offer him apartments in which elegance and comfort will be combined. They offer him the attractions of social intercourse, of converse with his fellows in the generation to which he belongs. They offer him amusements which have in them nothing degrading or debasing, nothing inconsistent with the propriety of a blameless and virtuous life. I knew it has been objected—for I have seen it myself in print—that the directors in thus establishing and regulating this institution, have sacrificed the social considerations too far to the intellectual advantages and purposes to which this institution should be applied. I can quite feel that the objection so made is entitled to respectful consideration, but I cannot help thinking it is at all well founded, and for the reasons I have just given. If, indeed, it were true that by directing all the resources of this institution to intellectual purposes you could convert it into a great educational establishment, I should think there was great force and substance in the objection, but, if for the reasons I have pointed out, that is impossible, then it seems to me that by increasing the area of its usefulness, by making it beneficial to all classes of the youth of this great city, you are doing that which a sound and wise, as well as generous policy ought to dictate. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Do not overlook the fact that you are doing a great good in bringing the young men of our rising generation, as much as possible, together. Acquaintances are made; friendships are formed; men learn to know one another; the bonds that should unite them in one common fellowship and brotherhood are strengthened and cemented; the asperities, which are so likely to be engendered in the competition of business, in the conflicts of opinion, and in political controversy, whether local or general, are softened down and mitigated by men knowing one another, and learning to look upon one another as neigh-

bours and as friends. (Cheers.) And therefore I—if I may be allowed to express an opinion which, perhaps, as a stranger I have no business to express—cannot but say I think the course which has been pursued of making this great establishment useful and beneficial for all—in making it subservient to the social purposes of life as well as to the purposes of study and literature, has been, I think, a wise thing, and will in the end prove most beneficial to those for whose benefit and in whose interest the institution was established. (Cheers.) Do not let it be supposed in anything I have said that I would suggest to any portion of the young men of this city to turn away from the opportunity—the advantageous opportunity—which this great and noble institution affords them of self-improvement and of study. Happy is he who, when the day's work is done, finds his rest, and solace, and recreation in communion with the master minds of the present and of the past—in study, in literature, and the enjoyment of pleasures which are to be derived from this source. (Cheers.) If I might address to the younger portion of the community a few words of advice and exhortation—trusting to one who has been as hard a worker as the hardest workers amongst you—(cheers)—I would say there is no rest, no recreation, no refreshment to the wearied and jaded body and mind, worn by work and toil, equal to the intellectual pleasures to which I have just been referring. (Cheers.) Let them bear in mind that the time will come when the pleasures that now allure them and draw them away from intellectual pursuits will come to an end. Old age will take the place of bodily vigour. Let them again trust to one who is advancing fast in declining years—there is no enjoyment to equal the enjoyment of the great intellectual treasures which are always at hand and always at your disposal. (Cheers.) No power, no skill, no art can arrest the progress of physical decay. The morning of youth passes

rapidly into the noon of manhood, and ere we have time to rejoice and exult in the maturity of our strength, lo! the evening is at hand. The step becomes less elastic; the powers of the body fail; the exercises the pleasures and sports in which we rejoiced and delighted become wearisome and please us no more. Ancient poets fabled of some marvellous fountain, in which the body might be dipped and youth renewed, and even philosophy perplexed itself to discover the patent elixir by which the progress of decay might be averted; but those were vain and idle dreams. The ordination of Providence and the law of nature is too strong for man or man's inventions; but the mind may be made to retain its freshness and its vigour long after the withering hand of time shall have paralysed the limbs and affected the body with decay. (Cheers.) With the prolonged cultivation of the intellect in continued study, together with the continued worship and admiration of all that is pure and holy, sublime and beautiful in nature, in letters, and in art, the mind may be made to preserve its energy and vigour long after old age has crept upon us. (Hear, hear.) These are the fountains in which the mind shall find the well-spring of perennial youth and vigour to last long after the miserable body has ceased to be of any use. (Cheers.) Happy those who take to study and find in knowledge, in learning, and in those invaluable and priceless treasures, which the great geniuses, who have thought and written for us, have left us, as an undying inheritance, a lasting, a pure, an unmixed pleasure. (Cheers.) All that can be said upon the subject was said in much fewer words than I have used by the most accomplished man that antiquity ever knew, and of whose life the quotation that I am about to put before you is but a feeble echo. "These things," says Cicero, speaking of literary pursuits, "nourish and strengthen youth, and they are the comfort and the



charm of old age. In prosperity they are fortune's best adornment; in adversity they afford us a refuge; and in affliction the best solace. They delight us at home; they do not hinder us abroad. They abide with us by night as well as by day; they are our companions in travel, and when we retreat from the world they are the faithful companions of our solitude." (Hear, hear.) To turn from these topics to the subject which principally interests us—the fortunes of the Manchester Athenæum—there can be no doubt that these fortunes have been subject to trying vicissitudes. Within a few years of its being called into existence, the Athenæum, falling on evil days, was threatened with extinction, and by degrees it became embarrassed by debt, but by the exertions of generous-hearted men it was redeemed and extricated from its difficulties, and again established upon a prosperous and useful footing. Every one supposed that that state of things would have lasted and endured for many and many a day; but, as the German poet puts it, when speaking of a similar calamity, "With the powers of Fate no lasting compact can be made." A great calamity came upon this noble institution, and for a time its existence was suspended, but Phoenix-like, it has risen from its ashes—(cheers)—and it appears again in renewed splendour, and with a renewed prospect of prosperity and usefulness. (Hear, hear.) I express, I know, the common wish of all, that it may long continue to flourish, being, as it is, a noble ornament of this great city, to which it owes its birth, and which has set an example to all other cities having similar institutions. (Cheers.) And of you, citizens and inhabitants of this city of Manchester, what shall I say, and in what terms shall I express myself? How shall I express the aspirations that I feel for your lasting and enduring prosperity? You have achieved indeed great things, You have contributed in no mean degree to



the greatness, the glory, and the renown of our common country. (Hear, hear.) You have filled the ends of the world with the productions of your industry. By contributing to the national wealth, you have contributed to its power, and its greatness, and its position amongst the nations of the earth. (Hear, hear.) But this is not all you have done. Scientific invention owes you a great debt for the support—the fostering support—you have always given to it. Art owes you a great debt for the munificent patronage which you have always extended to it. The princely fortunes that have been amassed by your untiring industry and your great commercial enterprise have not been swallowed up in luxurious enjoyment or in vain pomp. You have learnt to know that Fortune is never so graced as when she calls on Art to adorn her. (Cheers.) The commercial cities of the world have many of them left a lasting obligation to the minds of those who lived in their day, and to the posterity which succeeded them. To Tyre we owe the invention of those little instruments which have marked the progress of civilization in the world, and to which it owes the greatness it has achieved. Athens has left us a literature which must endure so long as human civilization and intelligence is prolonged. To Florence and to Venice we are indebted for undying treasures of literature and of art; and Manchester has followed those great and noble examples. Here, Art has never failed to find encouragement. Music, the choicest gift after the gifts of the mind, that heaven has bestowed upon men, has found its home amongst you. (Cheers.) The sculptor, the poet, and the painter have never failed to find the encouragement which your substantial generosity has given them for the exertions of their genius and their skill. May you long continue to occupy the same position in the world's estimation that you have so nobly, so honourably gained. (Hear, hear.) The last word that I will venture to address

to you is, the ardent and eager hope, not only for your sakes, but for the sake of the common country to which we all belong, that your prosperity and your renown may endure into the remotest ages of appointed time. (Loud and continued cheers.)

The Marquis of SALISBURY, who was very warmly received, said : Even if it were in my power, which it is very far from being, to rival those flights of eloquence to which we have listened with delighted ear for the last three quarters of an hour, I should remember that I had no business to venture upon such an encroachment upon your patience, for I am here in the position of a junior. It is my business merely to dwell upon prosaic facts, and to my distinguished leader is given the privilege to dilate upon those subjects which excite your emotions and appeal to your enthusiasm. I was asked to take part in these proceedings, and I consented, partly from my wish on all occasions to testify my great respect for this city, which is the source of so much of the mental and political life of the country which it adorns ; partly from a sincere desire to exhibit the esteem and reverence which I feel for the splendid abilities and the spotless reputation of him who presides over you to-day—(great applause)—and also from another feeling. I have all through those educational controversies which have spread over the whole of my political life, felt that one part of the education question did not receive the prominence and attention it deserved. We talk glibly of education, and flatter ourselves we have done very much for education in the last few years. We compare our progress in education with that of other countries, and what does this high-sounding word mean when we come to analyse it? It means we have achieved, with more or less success, the result of instilling the alphabet and the multiplication table into the wage-earning class at that age when

the memory is least tenacious, and when they are most likely to forget it. (Laughter.) Pray understand that I am speaking of this result of education relatively and not absolutely. If we have achieved that, or if we are in a way to achieve it, it is an enormous advance upon the brutal ignorance in which, unhappily, that class was left by our fathers, and let us be satisfied with the progress we have made. (Hear, hear.) But don't let us hide from ourselves the absolute slenderness of the result. Don't let us imagine that all we may seek to attain for human culture has been gained when such a result as I have described has been produced, even to the very utmost extent that the most sanguine legislators can expect. After all, the wage-earning class, numerous and important as they are, do not furnish the mainspring of our national action; they do not inspire the sentiments which actuate us as a people. For such men you must go somewhat higher in the scale. And what are you doing for them? What are you doing for the education of that class that does not come under the action of the recent legislation; for that class which has to educate itself without the unfathomable purse of the ratepayers to fall back upon. (Laughter and applause.) What I will call middle class education appears to me to be very important for the benefit of the wage-earning class itself, because when the present enthusiasm is passed, and you have to fall back upon the organization prescribed by law for the management of the education of the lower classes who is to manage it? Why the class immediately above that. The true key to the education of the lower class is a love of knowledge on the part of the class above that. (Applause.) Your illustrious president has dwelt in wise and cautionary language upon former failures and present difficulties, and has said that you must not expect too much, or imagine that from such an institution an university for the education of the whole class should spring

suddenly into life. I do not imagine that this Athenæum can accomplish the education of all, or anything like all, those who may be inclined to benefit by it. I am far from failing to recognize that the innocent pleasures there provided may draw men from pleasures which are much worse and which may be the foundation of an abandoned life. I hope the value of the institution as an educational instrument will not be entirely confined to those who go there with the intention of taking advantage of the appliances for self-education which it affords, but that there may be people who will go there to play at billiards and stay to read. (Applause.) The Lord Chief Justice has dwelt upon the great triumphs which this city has contributed to the cause of science. I had the pleasure to-day to go over the Owens College, upon the list of whose educational instruments, if I may use the term, you will find some of the most illustrious scientific men which Europe at present can produce. (Loud applause.) And I think that this Athenæum can appeal with special earnestness and effect to you for support, for I believe it is treating the newer studies which the schools in this country have habitually neglected. You know that in the schools as they have been up to the present time—though I am happy to believe a reform is gently coming in—there has been an exclusive and one-sided cultivation of one particular kind of knowledge. I should be sorry to be thought for a single instant to cast a slur upon what is called classical education, but the mistake which the directors of schools in this country have made is that they seem to have imagined that, because a kind of study is in itself good and noble, therefore it is good and noble for every kind of mind. You may as well argue that because wheat is the best kind of grain you should grow it upon every kind of land, whether the land suited it or not. (Applause.) Human minds are as different from each other



as the various soils in the various parts of the world. I have known very distinguished men upon whose lips audiences would hang with rapture, who could not, even if they are asked, do an addition sum. On the other hand, there are men who have a natural proclivity for mathematics. You must allow a mind as completely to dictate the kind of study that it is capable of absorbing, as you would allow a kind of soil to dictate what crop should be planted on it. The exclusive cultivation of the classics commenced at the period when the middle ages ceased. Since that time new histories have been called into being, a new literature exists, and sciences which our forefathers' dreamed not of are household words to us, and are necessary, not only to our individual culture, but our national progress. It is, therefore, essential that such institutions as this should exist and enable men to cultivate their minds and supply the defects which their school education has left behind. (Applause.) And there is one other recommendation I will venture to point out to you. A great responsibility is cast upon the middle classes at the present time, to which I should like to allude. Science has now been made a vehicle to call into question those truths and subjects upon which the deepest convictions of the human heart are set. In the early part of this century men of religion used to attack the men of science. I will not say that in the latter part of the century men of science attacked men of religion, because that would be making a very unjust and sweeping accusation, but it is no doubt a fact that scientific study has now been made a vehicle for calling into question beliefs which are dear to the whole people of this country. (Applause.) I dare say you have heard of the Athenæum in Canada, which contained books of science. The Roman Catholic Bishop, who was, I think, a very foolish man, forbid his flock to read those books of science; and when one refused to obey his prohibition, and continued to belong



to the Athenæum, the Bishop excommunicated him; and when he died refused him burial. I think that the course pursued by the bishop was directly opposite to the reasonable policy. He did that which I am urging you not to do. I believe that the only way to settle these great discussions is to more widely diffuse knowledge of these matters. (Applause.) It is only given to the few who can devote their lives to the task to become experimentalists, but all men who will give sufficient attention can acquire sufficient knowledge to judge of the true facts in the matter; and I venture to say that few who have not looked into it have any idea of the extreme slenderness of the basis of facts upon which these towering speculations are built up. (Applause.) Now, it will be the danger of every society—and that is the danger into which we are falling—that they will fall into the hands of leaders whom they cannot criticise. We shall be guided by experts, and I have only to appeal to the Lord Chief Justice, and to his judicial experience, to show how little the evidence of experts can be trusted until it has been submitted to the judgment of a jury of sound common sense and informed men. I wish to submit these scientific speculations to a jury of well educated Englishmen. (Applause.) My belief is that they will disappear like the morning mists when they are examined by a sufficient number of well-informed minds. The remedy for such speculations is not to avoid—not to close the books in which they are contained—not to avoid the knowledge which treat of them; the only remedy that will be successful is to examine them thoroughly; and that, I think, is the great justification of all such efforts as this to improve the only real culture of the middle classes, upon whom so much depends. There are now wild theories abroad, and the only remedy for them, and the only means of distinguishing the truth from the false, is to have

a well-cultured and well instructed people. (Loud cheers.)

Lord HOUGHTON, who was received with loud cheers, said he could not do better than express more distinctly what he believed to be their pleasure than, as a northern neighbour, to give a cordial welcome to the distinguished personages in the law and the State who had honoured the Athenæum with their presence that evening. To him the name of the Manchester Athenæum had been familiar since his youth. The Athenæum had had its rise, falls, and revolutions, its ardent hopes and great disappointments, and now it seemed to him that after a long career it still enjoyed a healthy maturity which he trusted it might long enjoy for the benefit of the town of Manchester. (Hear, hear.) After the remarks of the noble Lord Salisbury, he would say a word or two to them in favour of that indefinite general culture which applied itself as much to the imagination as to the intellect. To it he sometimes looked for the solution of the social and political difficulties that surrounded us at the present day. It was very difficult to define strictly this culture, but he would put it to every one present, and especially the ladies, if they could not discern it in the persons with whom they held converse. The growth of this culture seemed to him to be the one great security of modern society. It was not a new saying, that the great development of the mind did not consist in the perfection of any one of the faculties or in the application to any one special study. It was the general appreciation of all that was good and beautiful which they arrived at by the studies of literature, and to this point we had now arrived, that there was no contempt of this culture in any society whatever. And they in Manchester, the strictest men of business, knew very well that a man was none the worse for being able to look above his labour and see something of the

world beyond him, different from that in which he had been essentially educated himself. Statesmen who had governed this country had been men essentially of imagination, and this imagination existed in all classes of men, and thus it was that the development of the culture to which he had referred in the intercourse of intelligent men could give them an enormous security for the well-being of the world. In another point of view, he would ask them to consider whether the general culture which societies such as that tended to improve was not most valuable in meeting what seemed to him the most prominent danger of modern society. It might seem almost a paradox, but it was one which would be acceptable to the judgment of many persons, that what they had to fear in our modern politics was above all the loss of freedom, for there might be a time coming when the tyranny of the majority might be just as difficult for a man to meet as any that had to be contended against in the most slavish times of the earlier days. It was every day becoming more and more difficult for a man to stand forward in his own sense of individual right against the prevalent and powerful opinion of those around him, and such a society as that could do much to meet such a gigantic evil as the one to which he had alluded. (Loud cheers.) They might have in that great town other sister societies connected with this, carrying out the same principles of superior education, which might end in giving to the general youth of Manchester, not only of the middle, but of the very lowest classes, those principles of knowledge and freedom which might conduce in the very greatest degree to the prosperity and advantage of the country. The meeting together of men in those noble halls he had visited to-day, for the purpose of conversation, was in itself a very great disadvantage, and if society brought together in general and friendly intercourse men of different capacities, intelligence, and walks of life, it would do a very great deal of good.

(Hear.) It was remarkable how very difficult it had been to establish clubs where working men might find the pleasure of society which the members of this institution enjoyed. He asked them each in their own sphere of life to try to give to those who had not the same advantages the same spirit of social life. Lord Salisbury had said the future education of the masses of the people would depend on that of the higher classes, and what the country had a right to be proud of was that from the time of the foundation of the grammar schools of the country there had been on the part of men of rank and learning an earnest desire to educate the masses of the people, and also among those who had acquired wealth by commerce there were many who had generously applied a large portion of their wealth to the intellectual and moral advantage of their fellow-creatures. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. A. ROEBUCK, M.P., who rose amid loud and repeated cheers, said he took it to be a high honour to be allowed to speak, after the great men who had preceded him, to such an audience and upon such a subject. He could not understand why he had been permitted thus to have such an honour; but he supposed it might be because he had spent a long life in the service of the people, and his greatest efforts had been made in aid of the education of the great body of his countrymen. It had ever been with them a strong belief that the people to be happy must govern themselves, and that in order to govern themselves well, so that they should be happy, they must be instructed. In considering an institution which had for its object the spreading of instruction amongst the people, and the circumstances which distinguished it, he turned his mind to the classes who created the institution, and then to the classes for whom it was created, and [in speaking to the gentlemen of Manchester he would say



that it was to their own high honour that they had done this. They had not only been sensible and highly esteemable men, but they had been exceedingly prudent men. The men of Manchester had shown that they knew how to turn their superfluity of wealth, not only to the conducting of their private pleasures, but persevered in sustaining and extending such institutions as those they would extend also their influence, and it would go down and down to every class until they reached the whole community. It was in this way he hoped these institutions would be sustained by the wealth of this country, and that in spite of disappointments they would continue to work for the education of the people. (Cheers.) An institution like this was not simply an institution of elementary instruction; that must be carried on and maintained by the government, and when he said the government he meant the people, the great body of this country must contribute to the education of the great masses of the community. But it was not simply the normal education of the people they had to consider, for a very important consideration was their after habits in life. Such institutions as these afforded to young men intelligent social intercourse and intellectual cultivation. As the Lord Chief Justice had very truly said, there was no pleasure like intellectual pleasure. He (Mr. Roebuck) spoke to them as an old man who had passed through a long life of activity. He had had many pleasures, and he had had a successful life—at least he thought so. (Cheers.) But of all the great pleasures which Providence had allowed him to enjoy, the one great pleasure of his life had been the love of reading. (Cheers.) No matter what misery had beset him there was always a sure, but how to use it for the benefit of the great body of their countrymen. In doing this he would again say that they had been very prudent. What was the diffi-



culty? No thinking man could look upon the present state of this country without a feeling of anxiety, because he knew the time was fast coming upon us when the Government of this country must be in reality in the great body of its people, and the men of Manchester, seeing that the mass of uncultivated men were about to become their rulers, had, in their prudence, determined to aid in the cultivation of these men. It might, however, be said—and he thought truly—that institutions like these did not touch the great body of the people. He believed, however, that if they friend on the shelf to whom he could turn; there he found relief, and there his misery disappeared. That was what he would say to every young man; and to those who had children he would say let the first efforts of themselves, as regarded those children, be the training them in mere reading. Let them get that one habit instilled in them, for there was no book so bad that was not better than vulgar conversation. A society like that was a supplement to education. The young men of the town, after leaving their duties, where were they to go? to the street, to the pothouse, or something worse? That society opened to him elegant apartments, and gave him intellectual entertainment, elevated him in the scale of being, ensured him against the miseries of life, and, as far as human prudence could, they provided the means for a happy life to come. (Hear, hear.) Therefore he would urge the men of Manchester to continue in their labour, not to be downhearted, and, turning to the class for whom such institutions as this had been provided, he would impress upon them to go to its halls, to visit its reading-rooms, to learn what it offered to them as a body of men who had to pass their lives in this town, and they would there find that which would conduce to their future happiness and their eternal wellbeing. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. W. R. CALLENDER, M.P., moved that the cordial vote of the meeting be given to the Lord Chief Justice of England for his kindness in presiding that evening, and said their warmest acknowledgments were also due to the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Houghton, Mr. Roebuck, and other friends who had honoured them with their presence.

The resolution was seconded by Sir EDWARD WATKIN, M.P., who briefly pointed out the benefits which had resulted to the people of Manchester from the establishment of such an institution.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, in responding, said a great deal had been said upon the subject of education, and of the opportunities for social intercourse, which such institutions as the Manchester Athenæum afforded, but in one respect it seemed to him to be defective. It might be filled with excellent young men, but where were the young women? (Loud laughter and cheers.) He was one of those who rejoiced in the spread of education, but nowhere, and in no quarter did he so greatly and so enthusiastically rejoice in its spread as amongst the fair, and he might be allowed to say, the better, sex. (Hear, hear.) He had long been satisfied of one thing, and that was that educated women were sure to produce educated offspring. It was not the fathers who made the clever people—(laughter)—and he was speaking as seriously as ever he did in his life—at all events, the real cultivation and development of the mind of the child was due to the mother, and on the mother of the future the development of the mind and the intelligence of this great community most materially depended. (Cheers.) And now, continued his Lordship, allow me one word to thank you for the very great and inestimable honour which I feel has been done to me on this occasion, including not only the

gentlemen who are members of this institution, but the ladies who have honoured and graced this meeting. (Cheers.) A last, a long farewell! It is not in the probability of human life that it will ever be my lot or my fortune to address a Manchester audience again. Therefore, I say good-bye! wishing you in this great city every prosperity, and individually, every blessing that Providence can shower! (Prolonged cheering.)

The proceedings then terminated.



Manchester Athenæum

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM,

For the Year 1874,

AND

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting,

HELD IN THE INSTITUTION,

ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1875;

ALSO

THE RULES, BYE-LAWS, AND STANDING ORDERS  
OF THE INSTITUTION;

NAMES OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1875;

ADVANTAGES OFFERED TO MEMBERS;

AND

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND MAGAZINES  
SUPPLIED TO THE INSTITUTION.

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MANCHESTER:

CAVE AND SEVER, PRINTERS BY STEAM POWER,  
PALATINE BUILDINGS, HUNT'S BANK.

1875.

# DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1875.

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## President.

SAMUEL OGDEN, Esq.

## Vice-Presidents.

A. E. FITZGERALD, Esq.	THOS. D. SIMCOCK, Esq.
T. W. ROBSON, Esq.	JOSEPH BROOME, Esq.

## Treasurer.

WILLIAM NICKSON, Esq.

## Auditors.

C. H. FITZGERALD, Esq. | JOHN ROBERTS, Esq.

## Honorary Secretary.

WM. ROMAINÉ CALLENDER, Esq., M.P.

## Committee.

Mr. J. C. BLAKE,	Mr. W. H. DEAN,
Mr. WM. FOGG,	Mr. WM. ELLIS,
Mr. WM. WOOD,	Mr. W. C. HARDY,
Mr. WM. ARTINGSTALL,	Mr. J. F. COOKE,
Mr. R. P. HEWIT,	Mr. J. E. COATES,
Mr. HARRY LYNILL,	Mr. J. R. LEVER,
Mr. HENRY HEAP,	Mr. J. R. HILLKIRK, Jun.
Mr. PERCIVAL HARTLEY,	Mr. L. BRODERICK,
Mr. J. J. BLACK,	Mr. R. A. ELDERSHAW.

## Secretary.

Mr. THOMAS SCHOFIELD.

## Librarian.

Mr. T. B. M. DUTTON.





Reconstruction.

Mr. SAMUEL OGDEN, *Chairman.*

Mr. W. R. CALLENDER, M.P.

Mr. A. E. FITZGERALD

Mr. JOHN ROBERTS

Mr. T. W. ROBSON

Mr. WM. FOGG

Mr. T. D. SIMCOCK

Mr. PERCIVAL HARTLEY

Mr. WM. NICKSON

Mr. WM. ELLIS

Mr. J. E. COATES.

Trustees.

JAMES HEYWOOD, Esq.

G. F. BARBOUR, Esq.

E. WORTHINGTON, Esq.

D. AINSWORTH, Esq.

JAMES DUGDALE, Esq.

Teachers.

Mons. HATZFELD, *French Language and Literature.*

Herr KALISCH, *German Language and Literature.*

Mons. E. RENO, *Spanish Language.*

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RETIRING OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1874.

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President.

SAMUEL OGDEN, Esq.

Vice-Presidents.

A. E. FITZGERALD, Esq.

JOSEPH BROOME, Esq.

THOS. D. SIMCOCK, Esq.

THOS. KENT GOODIER, Esq.

Treasurer.

WILLIAM NICKSON, Esq.

Auditors.

WILLIAM BROWNE, Esq.

C. H. FITZGERALD, Esq.

Honorary Secretary.

WM. ROMAIN CALLENDER, Esq., M.P.

Committee.

Mr. WM. FOGG

Mr. WM. WOOD

Mr. E. MITCHELL

Mr. JNO. ROBERTS

Mr. T. W. ROBSON

Mr. WM. ARTINGSTALL

Mr. J. C. BLAKE

Mr. J. E. COATES

Mr. R. O. McILWRICK

Mr. PERCIVAL HARTLEY

Mr. W. H. DEAN

Mr. W. A. WATTS, M.A.

Mr. HARRY LYNILL

Mr. W. C. HARDY

Mr. R. P. HEWIT

Mr. J. F. COOKE

Mr. WM. ELLIS

Mr. GEORGE GREEN.

IV.—*The Coffee, Billiard, Chess, and Smoking Rooms*—admissible only to members of the Institution.

V.—*Lectures* are occasionally delivered during the winter season, to which only the members, and ladies introduced by them, have admission.

VI.—The following *Clubs and Societies*, according to their respective rules, at moderate fees:—

	Per annum.	
	s.	d.
Gymnastic Club.....	5	0
Lecture and Debating Society.....	1	0
Dramatic Reading Society .....	5	0
Musical Society.....	5	0
Spanish Conversational Society .....	10	0
German Conversational Society.....	10	0
Chess Club.....	3	6

*Evening Classes.*

French Language and Literature, Tuesdays, M.  
Hatzfeld. Entrance Fee, 5s.

	Per quarter.	
German Language and Literature, Thursdays, } Herr Kalisch .....	5	0
Spanish Language, Mondays, M. Reno.....	5	0

The subscription to the Athenæum is 24s. per annum; 13s. half-yearly; or 6s. 6d. per quarter. Junior members, under 20 years of age, 16s. per annum, or 5s. per quarter. Ladies, 15s. per annum, or 4s. 6d. per quarter. Tickets of membership, dating from the *first of every month*, are issued at the Secretary's Office.

WM. ROMAINE CALLENDER, M.P.,

*Honorary Secretary.*

THOMAS SCHOFIELD, *Secretary.*

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## NEWSPAPERS, &amp;c.

SUPPLIED TO

THE ATHENÆUM NEWS ROOM.

1875.

*London.*

Bell's Life  
 Bee Hive  
 Church Times  
 Daily News, 17 copies  
 Daily Telegraph, 17 copies  
 Globe  
 Hour, 2 copies  
 Morning Advertiser  
 Morning Post  
 Pall Mall Budget  
 Pall Mall Gazette, 6 copies  
 Record  
 Standard, 13 copies  
 Sunday Times  
 Tablet  
 Times, 24 copies  
 World

*Local.*

Alliance News, 2 copies  
 Manchester City News, 4 copies  
 Manchester Courier, 19 copies  
 Manchester Guardian, 21 copies  
 Manchester Examiner & Times,  
 19 copies  
 Manchester Evening News, 4  
 copies  
 Manchester Evening Mail, 4  
 copies

Salford Chronicle  
 Salford Weekly News

*Provincial.*

Birmingham Post  
 Bradford Observer  
 Bristol Mercury  
 Carlisle Journal  
 Carnarvon Herald  
 Chester Chronicle  
 Hull News  
 Leeds Mercury  
 Liverpool Albion  
 Liverpool Weekly Albion  
 Liverpool Courier  
 Liverpool Daily Post  
 Liverpool Mercury, 2 copies  
 Manx Sun  
 Midland Counties Herald  
 Oldham Chronicle  
 Oldham Standard  
 Preston Guardian  
 Sheffield Independent  
 Shrewsbury Chronicle  
 Southport News  
 Southport Visiter  
 Staffordshire Advertiser  
 Stamford Mercury  
 West Briton  
 Yorkshire Post

*Scotch and Irish.*

Aberdeen Journal  
 Dundee Advertiser  
 Dumfries Courier  
 Edinburgh Review  
 Freeman's Journal (Dublin),  
     daily  
 General Advertiser (Dublin)  
 Glasgow Herald, 2 copies  
 Glasgow News  
 Inverness Courier  
 Irish Times  
 North British Daily Mail  
     (Glasgow)  
 Northern Whig (Belfast)  
 Scotsman (Edinburgh)  
 Warder (Dublin)

*Shipping and Commercial.*

Lloyd's Shipping List  
 Liverpool Bill of Customs  
 London Bill of Customs  
 London Gazette  
 Myers' Mercantile Gazette  
 Prince's Prices Current

*American and Colonial.*

Brazil and River Plate Mail  
 Brisbane Courier  
 Montreal Gazette  
 New York Herald  
 New York Tribune  
 North American and United  
     States Gazette (Philadelphia)  
 Semi-Weekly Times (New York)  
 The Australasian

*Foreign.*

Allgemeine Zeitung  
 Berliner Börsen Zeitung  
 Cleo  
 Der Bund  
 Hamburger Nachrichten  
 Illustrierte Zeitung  
 Kladderadatsch  
 Kölnische Zeitung

La Epoca  
 La Ilustracion Espanola y  
     Americana  
 Le Charivari  
 Le Constitutionnel  
 Le Journal des Debats  
 Le Massis  
 Le Siècle  
 Le Temps  
 Levant Herald  
 L'Illustration  
 L'Independance Belge  
 L'Opinion  
 Mellon  
 Revue des deux Mondes  
 Rotterdamsche Courant

*Periodicals.*

Academy  
 Architect  
 Army and Navy Gazette  
 Athenæum  
 Builder  
 Chemical News  
 Choir  
 City Lantern, 3 copies  
 Colliery Guardian  
 Critic, 3 copies  
 Dispatch  
 Economist, 2 copies  
 English Independent  
 Engineer  
 Engineering  
 Era  
 Examiner  
 Figaro, semi-weekly  
 Field  
 Financial Reformer  
 Free Lance, 3 copies  
 Freeman  
 Fun, 4 copies  
 Gardeners' Chronicle  
 Graphic, 6 copies  
 Goal  
 Herepath's Journal



Illustrated London News, 7  
 copies  
 Inquirer  
 Jewish Chronicle  
 Judy, 5 copies  
 Lancet  
 Land and Water  
 London Guardian  
 Law Times  
 Mark Lane Express  
 Mining Journal  
 Money Market Review  
 Nature  
 Nonconformist  
 Notes and Queries  
 Popular Science Review  
 Public Opinion  
 Punch, 9 copies  
 Railway News  
 Railway Times  
 Saturday Review, 3 copies  
 Spectator, 2 copies  
 Sporting Gazette  
 Volunteer Service Gazette  
 Warehousemen and Drapers'  
 Trade Journal  
 Watchman  
 Weekly Review

*Magazines.*

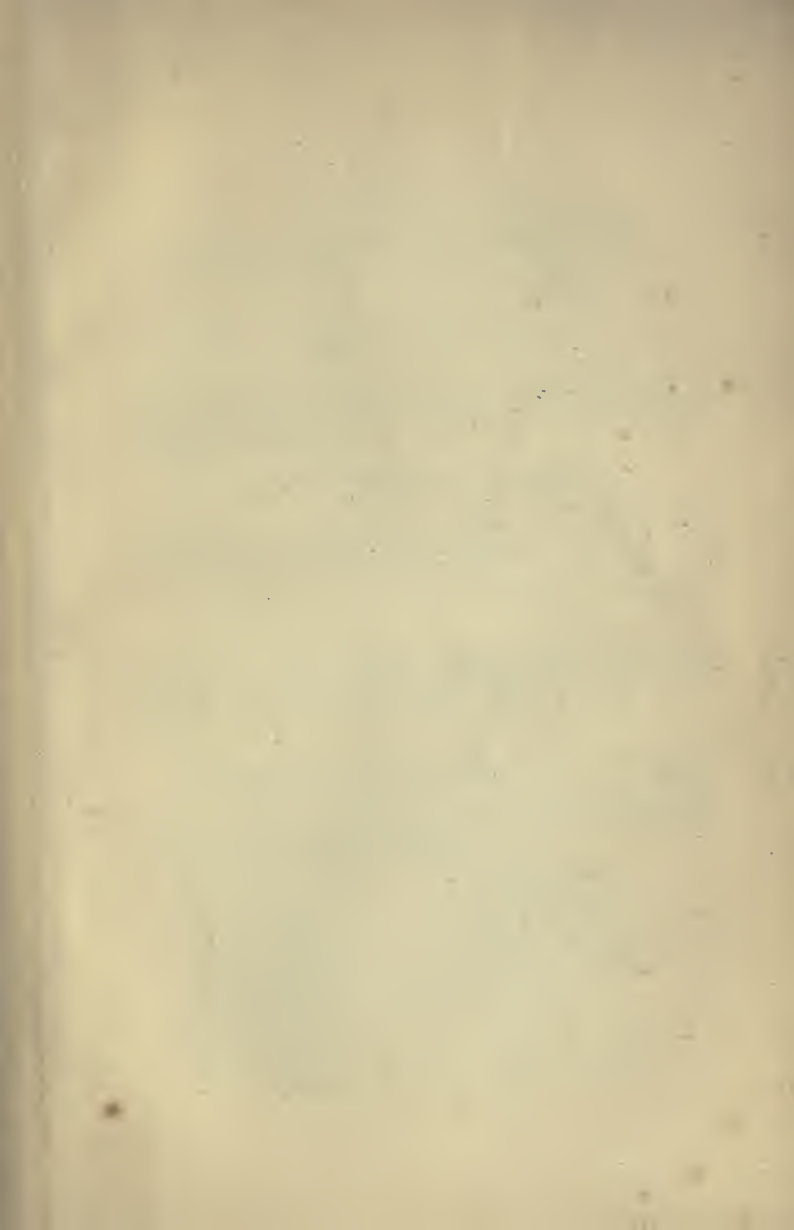
(Monthly and Quarterly.)

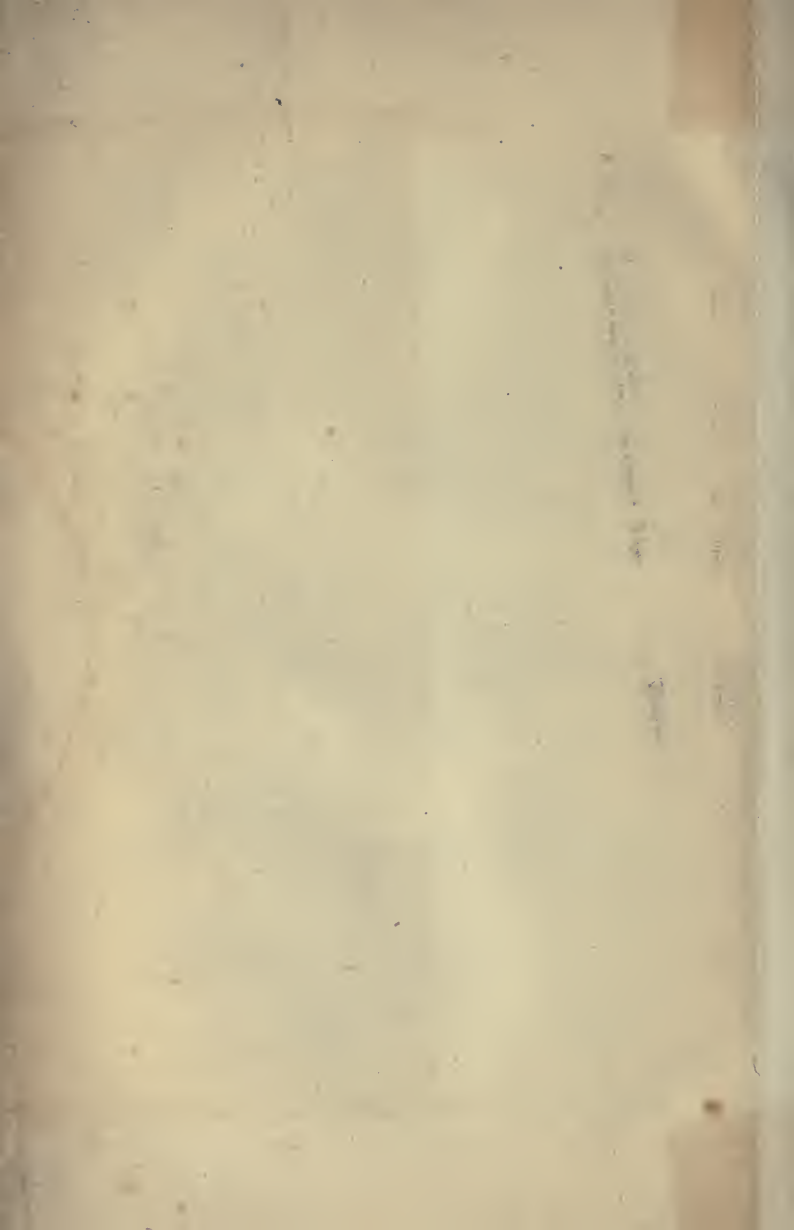
Art Journal  
 Atlantic Monthly

Bailey's Sporting Magazine  
 Bankers' Magazine  
 Belgravia  
 Blackwood's Magazine  
 British Quarterly Review  
 Chambers's Journal  
 Contemporary Review  
 Cornhill Magazine  
 Dublin Review  
 Dublin University Magazine  
 Edinburgh Review  
 Fortnightly Review  
 Fraser's Magazine  
 Gentleman's Magazine  
 Good Words  
 Herald of Peace  
 Homœopathic Review  
 Homœopathy, British Journal  
 of  
 London Quarterly Review  
 London Society  
 Macmillan's Magazine  
 Quarterly Review  
 St. James's Magazine  
 Temple Bar  
 Tinsley's Magazine  
 Westminster Review

*Serials.*

All the Year Round, 2 copies  
 Once-a-Week, 2 copies





# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

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## RESOLUTIONS, &c.

*Of the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Members of the Manchester Athenæum, held in the Institution on Wednesday, the 27th January, 1875 ;*

SAMUEL OGDEN, Esq., in the Chair.

The Directors' Report, with a Statement of the Accounts, having been read, the following Resolutions were passed :—

Moved by Mr. SAMUEL OGDEN, and seconded by Mr. W. H. BURROW,—

That the Report now read be adopted ; that the Accounts be received and passed, and that the Report and Accounts, along with the Report of the Reconstruction Committee, be printed and circulated.

Moved by Mr. JOHN ROBERTS, and seconded by Mr. EDWARD MITCHELL,—

That the following gentlemen be appointed Scrutineers of the Ballot for the Election of Directors :—

Mr. E. Farrar,  
Mr. J. T. Embleton,  
Mr. W. Hicks,  
Mr. A. C. Jockel,  
Mr. John Dale,  
Mr. F. M. Pettit,  
Mr. J. Hadfield,  
Mr. Thos Brown,  
Mr. J. J. Alley,  
Mr. E. D. Stone,  
Mr. J. B. Collins,

Mr. J. A. Gee,  
Mr. C. Barton,  
Mr. R. Fraser,  
Mr. D. O. Hobbs,  
Mr. W. A. Maguire,  
Mr. P. Ryder,  
Mr. G. H. Bell,  
Mr. A. Wilks,  
Mr. T. H. Smith,  
Mr. T. P. Rothwell,  
Mr. W. B. Furst.

Moved by Mr. WM. R. CALLENDER, and seconded by Mr. A. E. FITZGERALD,—

That the Rules and Bye-laws of the Institution, as now read, be and are hereby confirmed by this Meeting.

The List of Members nominated as Directors, with the names of their proposers and seconders, was then read to the Meeting.

Moved by Mr. W. BALDWIN, and seconded by Mr. CHARLES SWALLOW,—

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the retiring Directors for their services during their year of office.

Moved by Mr. JOSEPH E. COATES, and seconded by Mr. T. W. ROBSON,—

That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to William Romaine Callender, Esq., the Honorary Secretary, for his services to the Institution during the past year.

Moved by Mr. WILLIAM FOGG, and seconded by Mr. J. C. BLAKE,—

That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to Samuel Ogden, Esq., for his efficient services in the Chair.

(The Meeting then adjourned to the following day, at 4 p.m., to ballot for Directors; and the Scrutineers subsequently announced that the gentlemen—a list of whom is given on page 2—had been duly elected Directors for the year 1875.)

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# MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM.

## REPORT FOR 1874.

THE unavoidably slow progress in the completion of the building has prolonged the disadvantages which have arisen from the larger part of the Athenæum being unavailable for the use of its members. Notwithstanding this, the financial position of the Institution presents a most favourable aspect, as the amount of income derived from the subscriptions of members amounts to £2,933. 1s. 10d., in addition to the payment of £40. for two life memberships, the total being £45. 15s. 3d. in excess of 1873.

The average number of members as compared with that of former years is shown in the following table:—

1874.	Annual.		Half-Yearly.		Quarterly.			Total.	Number of Members for each Year since 1868.						
	Junior.	Senior.	Junior.	Senior.	Junior.	Senior.	Ladies.		1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	
Jan....	196	857	5	64	153	1118	4	2397	2563	2575	2596	2508	2439	2441	
Feb ...	186	860	4	63	154	1136	3	2406	2558	2588	2566	2542	2469	2456	
March	183	872	3	58	167	1158	3	2444	2584	2597	2541	2551	2484	2458	
April.	180	871	4	51	155	1142	3	2406	2523	2536	2498	2505	2464	2385	
May ..	178	878	4	53	148	1124	5	2390	2496	2516	2425	2438	2405	2347	
June..	177	877	3	49	138	1130	4	2378	2443	2489	2408	2412	2375	2305	
July..	174	878	5	52	140	1096	4	2349	2372	2409	2366	2395	2297	2238	
Aug....	173	883	6	58	125	1076	4	2325	2344	2359	2352	2432	2264	2227	
Sept...	174	888	6	57	126	1066	4	2321	2381	2350	2342	2468	2266	2208	
Oct....	168	884	6	54	129	1160	4	2405	2403	2479	2444	2542	2393	2325	
Nov...	163	889	8	52	138	1201	4	2455	2406	2552	2508	2628	2477	2359	
Dec ...	165	896	18	52	159	1283	5	2578	2399	2570	2551	2619	2506	2416	
Average of Yearly Members.....									2405	2456	2510	2466	2503	2403	2347
Life Members .....									210	215	220	220	230	240	250
Aggregate average.....									2615	2671	2730	2686	2733	2643	2597

The number of senior annual members has exhibited a steady monthly increase throughout the year, and it will be observed that at the date of this Report a large accession of members has taken place in almost every class. If it be borne in mind that the present number of members is 50 per cent. more than in 1864, and has only decreased 105 from the highest number attained in recent years, the Board can entertain no doubt that with renewed powers of accommodation and additional facilities for the successful operation of the various classes and societies, there will be a

renewal of that increase of members which formed so striking an evidence of the advantages which the Athenæum affords.

The financial year closes with a balance in hand of £973. 8s. 10½d., or an increase of £435. 14s. 11d. as compared with 1873, a very large proportion of which is due to the successful operations of the Coffee Room Committee.

Several additional newspapers and periodicals have been supplied to the Newsroom, and at no former period have the requirements of this important department been more fully met. Upwards of 70,000 copies of newspapers, periodicals, magazines, and reviews have been placed upon the tables during the year.

During the past year 63,891 volumes have been issued from the Library—an average of 210 per day.

The temporary accommodation afforded in the old Magazine Room has been found altogether inadequate for the requirements of the Library, the shelving being capable of holding only about one-half of the stock of books, and consequently several thousand volumes have been stored up in other rooms of the Institution, and the number available for circulation has been much limited. This will account for the diminution in the issues when compared with the returns of last year. The decrease may also in some degree be attributed to the fact of a large number of works in three volumes, which were in the Library previous to the fire, having been replaced by editions in one volume only.

*Classification of Books issued from the Library in 1874.*

Class.	Subscription Books Department.	Permanent Library.	Total.
Theology and Philosophy .....	113	310	423
History .....	114	923	1,037
Biography .....	534	633	1,167
Voyages and Travels.....	1,079	681	1,760
Jurisprudence, Political Economy, &c.	7	151	158
Science and the Arts .....	53	817	870
Education .....	4	12	16
Foreign Works .....	.....	234	234
Collected Works, General Literature, } &c. ....	131	2,068	2,199
Poetry and the Drama .....	47	436	483
Works of Fiction.....	20,020	34,688	54,708
Magazines, &c. (Unbound) .....	.....	836	836
Total for 1874 .....	22,102	41,789	63,891
Total for 1873 .....	15,449	52,023	67,472
“ “ 1872 .....	15,290	66,802	82,092
“ “ 1871 .....	15,076	66,619	81,695
“ “ 1870 .....	16,716	68,837	85,553
“ “ 1869 .....	16,270	68,762	82,032

Since January, 1,017 volumes have been purchased, and nine presented; 1,442 volumes of the ordinary stock have been rebound and 59 repaired, in addition to 225 borrowed books, which have been restitched.

A manuscript catalogue of the books in the Library, which is now in course of preparation by the librarian, will be ready for consultation by the members on the re-opening of the Library in the new premises.

By means of the subscriptions to the various Library Companies, upwards of 1,800 volumes of the latest and most popular publications of the year have been circulated amongst the members.

During the past year the Meetings of the Board, and of such of the Societies and Classes as could not be accommodated within the walls of the Institution, have been held at the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, for which accommodation a rental has been paid, amounting to £116. The disadvantages arising from the want of proper accommodation have been seriously felt, especially in connection with some of the larger Societies; and the Board, while regretting the operation of such unfavourable causes, rejoice to report the completion of the new building, which will enable the members to carry on their pursuits with greater facilities.

The Debating Society has held eight meetings in the Dining-room of the Institution, and the following subjects have been discussed during the Session:—

John Stuart Mill .....	Mr. Burrow.
Philosophy of J. S. Mill .....	Mr. Routledge.
Old and New Paths .....	Mr. Stutter.
National Education .....	Mr. Hewit.
Tendency of Field Sports.....	Mr. Baldwin.
Right of Search.....	Mr. Stutter.
Trades' Unions .....	Mr. Corbett.

The number of members compares not unfavourably with former years, and the financial position of the Society has improved. With the hearty concurrence of the Directors, the members have adopted the title of "The Athenæum Lecture and Debating Society," and the Committee now consists of seven instead of five members. These changes have been introduced to give effect to a desire expressed by many of the members, viz., to realise the higher aims of the Athenæum as a literary and educational institution, and for that purpose to make use of the new Lecture Hall, whose handsome proportions and acoustic properties

render it especially available for the delivery of lectures. The Committee of the Society propose to provide for the delivery of lectures, with power to admit strangers after providing for the admission of members of the Athenæum; and the Directors are prepared to recommend to their successors to grant, on convenient occasions, the free use of the Lecture Hall, and, so long as the Society may seem to require it, to set aside in the yearly estimates a grant of money to assist in securing the services of lecturers of eminence. The Board desire to confirm the opinion of their predecessors, that each Society of the Institution should be self-sustained, and the justice of this conclusion is shared by the Committee of the Society.

The Gymnastic Club has suffered most severely from the difficulty of procuring a convenient locality during the last year. For the winter session of 1873-4 temporary premises were obtained in Oxford-street; but owing to the high rental, the Board did not feel justified in authorising the Committee to re-engage them for a longer tenancy, but granted a sum of £30. towards the expenses of the Club during the summer season, and have since voted the payment of 10s. 6d. per week towards the payment of Sergeant Lee's salary until the Club is reinstated in the new gymnasium. The total sum voted by the Board for rent on account of the Gymnastic Club amounts to £153. 11s. 10d., in addition to £38. 19s. for renewal of apparatus. It is expected that the operations of the Club will be immediately commenced, the subscription for the current year being reduced to five shillings. The Committee regret to announce the retirement of Mr. Moores, the hon. secretary during two seasons. The annual competition for prize medals was held in March, and the assault-at-arms and presentation of the A. G. C. champion medal for 1873 in the previous January, at the Hulme Town Hall, before a numerous company. Notwithstanding the great difficulties with which the Society has had to contend, nearly 100 medals have been won by its members at various athletic festivals during the last session,—Messrs. Crowley, Shaw, Barton, and Hargreaves having especially distinguished themselves.

The Dramatic Reading Society concluded its last session with 122 members, a number equal to the average of recent years. The closing performance, given in the Hulme Town Hall, on March 26th, comprised "A Novel Expedient," "Nine Points of the Law," and "A Blighted Being," and was favourably received by a large audience. It has not been thought advisable to resume the usual readings and entertainments until the re-opening of the building. In addition to the expenditure of upwards of £40. on materials, the Society has a balance of £84., which will probably



be required in the restoration, on a larger scale, of the proscenium and stage appliances. During the year the Treasurer of the Society has received £100. from the Directors on account of the destruction of property in the late fire.

At the commencement of the season, the rehearsals of the Musical Society were held at the Mechanics' Institution, and the first concert took place at the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, which, however, proved too small to accommodate the number desiring admission. The second and third concerts were given at the Hulme Town Hall, and were attended by larger audiences than on any former occasion. The programme at the three concerts consisted of a cantata on the subject of "The Crusaders," with words written and selected by a lady member; Macfarren's cantata, "May-day;" and Mendelssohn's motett, "Hear my prayer." The reputation of the Society, and of its Conductor, Dr. Hiles, were fully sustained. At the soirée of the Athenæum held on 22nd January, 1875, at the Free Trade Hall, the members of the Society executed a musical programme which was received with unqualified pleasure by a large audience. The number of members has increased to 192, and a deficit of two years' standing has been replaced by a satisfactory balance in hand.

The Language Classes have, during the past year, decreased in numbers from causes already referred to, but the pupils have made satisfactory progress. Two Prizes—one presented by the Chairman of the General Arrangements Committee, and the other subscribed for by the pupils—have been competed for in the French Class, and have been gained by Mr. Charles Turtle and Mr. Harry Williamson; Mr. J. M. Henderson receiving "honourable mention." The Spanish Conversational Society has done well during the past year, the members having supported a M.S. Magazine, consisting of the papers read at its weekly meetings. A German Society, on the same principle, has been formed, and comprises 27 members during its first session. The value of such studies in a commercial point of view is very great, and the Board sincerely trusts that they may be increasingly appreciated by the members of the Institution.

The Directors have much pleasure in stating that at a numerously attended meeting of members it was unanimously resolved to resuscitate the Chess Club; the usual steps were taken to obtain its official recognition, upwards of 70 members are enrolled, and the Lecture Hall has been set apart for a grand "Chess Tournament," commencing on January 30th, when Mr. Blackburne, the well-known player, will simultaneously conduct ten blindfold games against members of the Club.

The operations of the Coffee-room Committee have exceeded



those of any former year, amounting to the large sum of £5,559. The pecuniary result has been most satisfactory, and has materially aided the financial success of the year. In addition to an outlay of £154. 14s. 9d. on furniture and repairs, and the reservation (with the approval of the Board) of £100. to meet liabilities incurred for important alterations and improvements still in progress, the sum of £322. 6s. has been handed over to the general funds of the Institution. By the removal of the screen at the entrance to the dining-room and the substitution of double doors, the Committee have been enabled to fit up a large and commodious bar, and space for three additional dining tables has been procured by other changes.

A desire having been expressed on the part of several influential citizens and old members of the Athenæum, that the completion of the reconstructed building should be commemorated in some public manner, the Board appointed a special committee, consisting of the President, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, and Hon. Secretary, to confer with other gentlemen, and to ascertain how this suggestion should be carried into effect? In response to a circular issued by the President, a meeting took place at the Manchester Town Hall on September 25th, when a general committee was appointed, by whom the arrangements for a Grand Soirée were delegated to an executive which included every member of the Board. The details were subsequently entrusted to various Committees, principally composed of members of the Institution. The soirée was held at the Free Trade Hall on January 22nd, 1875, and was presided over by the Lord Chief Justice of England. The large room was completely filled. Addresses were delivered by the President; the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Houghton, and Mr. Roebuck, M.P. A loan collection of pictures and other articles was exhibited during the week in the new Lecture Hall, and visited by upwards of 6,000 persons. The Directors desire especially to acknowledge the generous liberality of those gentlemen who enabled them to afford to the members and their friends an attractive and interesting display of works of art. A choice collection of plants was furnished by Mr. Joseph Broome and the Council of the Horticultural Society. Mr. L. H. Grindon, Mr. Charles Bailey, and others exhibited rare botanical specimens; and Mr. E. T. Bellhouse most successfully executed the responsible duty of superintending the arrangements.

The Directors desire to express their highest appreciation of the interest which these gentlemen evinced, and of the valuable services of Sir E. W. Watkin, and many old members of the Athenæum formerly connected with its management. The

time and labour requisite to secure success have been very considerable, and under ordinary conditions must interfere with that attention to every-day wants which is necessary to ensure the comfort and convenience of the members. No financial results have been attempted or attained, and all ordinary work has been fully maintained. The Athenæum has been placed before the public as an institution requiring no sustaining influence beyond the exertions and self-help of its own members.

The position of the institution as regards its finances and the number of its members proves the wisdom of the general policy which has been pursued for many years. The completion of an arduous labour, the re-opening of a building designed to benefit so large a number of their fellow-citizens, and the popularity of the mode of celebrating this, are all circumstances which abundantly vindicate the course adopted.

With the completion of a work designed forty years ago, and long desired by those under whose management the Athenæum has been placed, the Report of 1874 closes, and the labour of the retiring and former Boards is successfully accomplished.

The Manchester Athenæum enters upon a new phase of usefulness, with a reputation which in these days of rapidly-passing events may be called historic, and with conveniences for bodily and mental culture, and means of physical and intellectual advantage, unsurpassed in any city in Europe. It owes its position to no fictitious circumstances, to no temporary fortune, but to the combined, patient, and long-sustained efforts of a large and increasing body of supporters.

The object of its original founders has been steadily kept in view, the desires of its members have been consulted, and the necessity of combining the requirements of varied pursuits and tastes is recognised in the formation and existence of societies and classes whose prosperity has been scarcely checked by circumstances which must have proved fatal to the fortunes of any Institution which had not earned the gratitude and affection of its members.

The responsibility of maintaining a future position worthy of its former history devolves upon all who cherish its past associations, and depends upon a continued desire to increase its efficiency, to utilize its advantages, and to enlarge the sphere of its operations.

By order of the Directors,

W. ROMAINÉ CALLENDER,

*Hon. Sec.*

*January 27th, 1875.*

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## REPORT OF THE RE-CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

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At the last Annual Meeting the members were informed that the plans of the Re-construction Committee had been approved by the Board a few days previously, viz., on the 20th January, 1874, and the Architects were preparing the specifications. Competitive tenders were immediately obtained from five firms, and a contract was subsequently entered into with Messrs. Neill and Sons, whose tender was the lowest. The contractors commenced operations at the beginning of March, and the work of re-construction is now approaching completion.

The total destruction of the top storey and the roof rendered an entire re-construction of that part of the building indispensable. It was determined to erect on that floor a new Concert and Lecture Hall, as large in its dimensions as the space available would permit. To do this it became necessary to increase the elevation of the building, so that the additional height required for the larger area might be obtained; and as, upon consideration, it appeared that the new Hall would be more generally useful if lighted from above, it was decided that a design without any external windows should be carried out.

The new Hall is undoubtedly the chief feature in the re-construction scheme, the alterations in other parts of the building being principally readaptations to give increased accommodation, both to the members and to the several societies in connection with the Institution.

The requirements of the Music and Dramatic Societies have been carefully considered in the construction of the new Hall. It is hoped that its acoustic properties, ventilation, and lighting (upon all of which great consideration and care have been bestowed, as well as a large expenditure) will be found quite satisfactory when completed and tested by the actual use of this noble room for its various purposes.

The architectural treatment is in accordance with its intended uses. The coupled pilasters which adorn the walls have enriched capitals of composite design, in which the musical emblems form a prominent feature; above them in the panels of the ceiling cove are allegorical life-size figures representing Art, Learning, Literature, Commerce, Music, Agriculture, and Science, &c., arranged in pairs at the opposite sides of the ceiling, and forming in connection with the other panelled and enriched portions of the ceiling a very ornate architectural design.

The room is well lighted by day through a series of panels in the centre of the ceiling filled in with embossed plate glass, and at night by six gasaliers suspended from alternate panels in the ceiling.

The fireplace on the left-hand side of the room is fitted up with a handsome grate and stone chimneypiece of suitable design. The main object of this is, that by screening off a portion of the floor space, a comfortable room of any size can readily be provided for the rehearsals or practice of the Music Society, the readings of the Dramatic Society, the meetings of the Debating Society for the Committee Meetings of the several Societies and Clubs and other like purposes.

The ventilation of this and the other rooms hereafter alluded to, has been carried out by the Potts' Patent Ventilating Cornice Company, the cold air being introduced through openings in the entablatures over the pilasters, and the heated air extracted through apertures in the ceiling over the gasaliers, and in the intermediate panels, which are connected with earthenware pipes, forming flues, terminating in an upright brick shaft in the main walls.

The platform, which occupies one end of the room, is so arranged that it can be increased in depth a few feet either in sections or throughout its whole length, to suit the varying purposes to which it will be applied.

The Concert Room is entered by three handsome doorways from a spacious vestibule, which has a panelled and coved ceiling with handsome lantern light. This vestibule is in direct communication with both front and back staircases, so that in case of necessity the greatest available means of exit are thus provided.

The old room at the top of the back staircase is now connected with the platform of the Concert Room, to form a convenient retiring room. The back staircase has been carried up two stories higher, and two additional rooms provided in the extra height over the ante-room.



The lavatory and closets on the top floor having had to be removed, their place has been supplied by the provision of additional accommodation in the mezzanine floor entered from the front staircase.

The first floor now contains a Billiard Room large enough to admit of four tables being placed therein; a Magazine Room, which will be much appreciated by members who desire to occupy a quiet reading room; a Committee, Class, or Correspondence Room, and the Library, which will have space for twenty thousand volumes.

The main division walls have been retained where necessary; but to secure good light the new partitions are constructed as largely as possible of plate-glass, with the lower squares embossed.

The rooms in this storey have also been ventilated by the introduction of Potts' patent cornices, connected by metal pipes with extracting flues in the main walls.

The ground floor has not yet been altered; but it is intended to carry out the original intention of providing additional lavatories, &c., at the back of the newsroom.

The restaurant has been enlarged by setting back the partition dividing it from the old chess room. The old billiard room will now be the gymnasium, but improved by the extra height which will be obtained when the floor is lowered and made more convenient by the addition of an anteroom, formed out of the old chess room.

The kitchen department has been improved by the construction of a room filling up the space at the bottom of the front staircase, and arrangements have been made by which it is hoped the effectual ventilation of the kitchen and both staircases will be secured. This was a matter of necessity, not only for these rooms, but as affecting the ventilation of the rooms in the upper storeys, into which the heated and vitiated air from these lower rooms would otherwise ascend and be very disagreeable.

The gas-fittings have required considerable repair, replacement, and alteration. There are now earthenware flues over the gasaliers, and the whole of these are covered with the best known patent boiler composition, the two combined proving most effectual non-conductors of heat. This arrangement of the gas flues—the whole of which are carried into brick-built up-shafts—and Messrs. Rigby's new method of constructing the hydro-carbon lights, places the building in a condition of safety from fire incomparably superior to any other plan hitherto known or adopted. At the same time, these flues are all acting as most efficient means of ventilation by the constant and rapid removal through them of the vitiated air of the various rooms.



The principal work yet left for future execution is the reconstruction of the new staircase, which must be undertaken without much delay. Estimates have been submitted for various modes of repair; but an entire new structure, either of wood or stone, appears desirable on every account.

The Committee have pleasure in recording the continued interest in the Athenæum of James Atherton, Esq. (one of the most active and energetic of its former presidents), who voluntarily remitted a cheque for £100. towards the restoration fund, with the expression of his deep regret for the loss of the library and the great damage done to the building.

Messrs. Robert Neill and Sons, with their sub-contractors, have executed the general works; Messrs. Rigby and Son have furnished and placed the gasaliers and earthenware gas flue pipes; the system of ventilating has been devised and carried out by Mr. Potts, for the Ventilating Cornice Company; Messrs. Clegg and Knowles, architects, furnished the design and have superintended the execution of all the works.

On behalf of the Reconstruction Committee,

SAMUEL OGDEN, *Chairman.*

*January, 1875.*

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# Income and Expenditure of the Manchester Athenæum, for the Year ending December 31st, 1874.

INCOME.		£.	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£.	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward .....	537	13	11½		By Chief Rent.....		307	1	11
" Subscriptions, Life Members.....	£40	0	0		" Interest on Mortgage .....		59	8	9
" Ditto, Annual and Quarterly.....	2933	1	10		" Fire Insurance .....		46	14	0
" Sales:—	2973	1	10		" Rents, Rates, and Taxes:—				
Newspapers .....	125	15	3		Gas Rent .....	£196	8	7	
Magazines.....	5	0	0		Water Rent .....	18	7	2	
Waste Paper .....	4	15	3		Poor Rate .....	86	9	2	
" Fines on Books.....	19	12	7		Township Rate .....	21	17	6	
" Fees received from French Class.....	6	15	0		Property Tax .....	5	10	0	
" Coffee and Billiard Rooms:—									
Rates and Taxes .....	80	0	0		" Newspapers .....		328	12	5
Balance of gross profits .....	322	6	0		" Magazines .....		468	0	11
	402	6	0		" Books bought (see also Reconstruction Account)		26	11	5
January 20th, 1875.					" Subscription for Books .....		29	0	7
THOMAS SCHOFIELD, Secretary.					" Bookbinding (see also Reconstruction Account)		252	0	0
					" Telegram Charges .....		134	9	9
Audited and found correct:					" Printing and Stationery.....		221	13	3
CHAS. TATTERSALL,					" Advertising .....		91	14	10
Public Accountant,					" Salaries and Wages.....		87	9	10
Manchester.					" Commission—Secretary.....		637	10	4
					" Furniture Painting and Repairs .....		212	7	6
					" Coal Account .....		60	8	4
					" Petty Cash and Sundries .....		19	7	10
					" Fees paid to French Master .....		105	19	4
					" Balance in favour of Institution .....		13	0	0
							973	8	10½

£4,074 19 10½

£4,074 19 10½

Examined by WM. BROWNE,  
CHAS. H. FITZGERALD, } Auditors.

# Liabilities and Assets of the Manchester Athenæum, for the Year ending December 31st, 1874.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
To M. Hatzfeld—Fees .....	4 10 0	By C. E. Mudie (London) Subscriptions for Books	42 8 6
" Gas Rent.....	90 16 11	" paid in advance .....	33 19 0
" Water Rent.....	8 0 2	" C. E. Mudie (Manchester) " .....	44 5 0
" Property Tax.....	3 15 0	" United Libraries Company .....	17 3 0
" J. Bridson, junr., Telegrams .....	11 10 6	" Smith and Son .....	25 0 0
" W. H. Nott and Co. " .....	8 17 0	" Fire Insurance paid in advance .....	0 19 3
" W. Aldred, Coal .....	8 7 10	" Coffee Room Loan Account .....	47 18 1
" B. Wheeler, Newspapers .....	82 0 10	" Amount owing by sundry persons for News-papers .....	1148 10 1
" W. Armstrong .....	18 5 9	" Cash in Manchester and Salford Bank .....	17 0 11½
" R. Heyworth, Plumbing .....	17 13 9	" Cash in hands of Secretary .....	
" Taylor, Garnett, and Co., Advertising .....	9 9 0		
" A. Ireland and Co. " .....	9 8 0		
" Sowler and Son .....	9 10 0		
" City News .....	5 11 0		
" C. Chorlton, Printing and Stationery .....	6 8 9		
" Alex. Thomson, " .....	2 1 9		
" Palmer & Howe " .....	1 2 9		
" C. Tattersall, Auditing .....	6 6 0		
" Coffee Room, balance carried to 1875 Account..	100 0 0		
" Balance of Assets over Liabilities .....	973 8 10½		
£1377 3 10½		£1377 3 10½	

THOMAS SCHOFIELD, Secretary.

Audited and found correct:  
 CHAS. TATTERSALL,  
 Public Accountant, Manchester.  
 January 20th, 1875.

Examined by WM. BROWNE,  
 CHAS. H. FITZGERALD, } Auditors.



MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM COFFEE AND BILLIARD ROOM—STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS,  
December 31st, 1874.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
To Coffee Room .....	5,181 9 5½	By Tradesmen's Accounts .....	3,679 11 1
" Billiards .....	207 12 4	" Wages .....	598 19 6
" Cigars .....	169 18 4	" Coal, Gas, and Water .....	184 19 3
		" Furniture and Repairs .....	164 14 9
		" Cigars .....	131 3 4
		" Sundries .....	106 19 2½
		" Crockery, Glass, Cutlery, &c. ....	48 17 4
		" Chief Rent, Rates, and Taxes .....	80 0 0
		" Manager's Commission .....	64 3 0
		" Sundry small Accounts .....	40 6 8
		" Printing .....	39 0 6
		" Newspapers .....	8 0 0
		" Amount carried to credit of 1875 Account .....	100 0 0
		" Balance of Income over Expenditure carried to General Account of the Institution .....	322 6 0
			<u>£5,559 0 1½</u>
	<u>£5 5·9 0 1½</u>		

THOMAS SCHOFIELD, Secretary.  
WILLIAM FOGG, Chairman.



# R U L E S.

1875.

## *Preamble.*

THE ATHENÆUM (established at a public meeting, 28th October, 1835, with a view to afford facilities for moral and intellectual improvement) shall comprise a Newsroom, Library, Reading-room, Room for Classes or Literary and Scientific Meetings, a Theatre for Lectures, and a Coffee-room.

## *Shareholders.*

RULE I.—Every sum of ten pounds subscribed to the building fund shall constitute the subscriber a holder of one share in the building. The shares shall be transferable, and the shareholder shall receive interest on the capital not exceeding five per cent. per annum.

## *Trustees.*

II.—The property of the Athenæum shall be vested, for the purposes of the Institution, in twelve Trustees, who at the time of their election shall be shareholders and members of the Athenæum, and who shall be chosen by the shareholders. When the number is reduced to six, the vacancies shall be filled up by the election of new Trustees.

## *Subscriptions.*

III.—The subscription to the Athenæum shall be 24s. per annum if paid in one sum, or 26s. if paid in equal quarterly instalments of 6s. 6d. Subscribers under twenty years of age will be admitted to the privileges of membership on the payment of 16s. per annum in one sum, or 5s. per quarter. The subscription for Ladies to the Library and Lectures shall be 15s. per annum if paid in one sum, or 18s. if paid in quarterly instalments of 4s. 6d. each. All subscriptions shall be paid in advance. All donors of £20. or upwards at one time shall be members for life. Each life member shall have the power to transfer the use of his ticket of admission to a member of his family, or to one of his clerks, if under twenty-one years of age; such substitution to be registered, and during its continuance the privileges of the life member to be in abeyance. Persons residing more than ten miles from, and having no place of business in Manchester, may be admitted members of the Athenæum at a subscription of 15s. per annum, payable in one sum, and shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Institution, except

the Library and the eligibility of voting at annual or special meetings, or of serving the office of Director.

*Conditions imposed upon Members.*

IV.—Every member, on paying his first subscription, shall receive a copy of the Rules and Bye-laws, and a ticket, renewable at each subscription, and not transferable, which will give him access to each department of the Institution and to the meetings during the period of his subscription. Every person, on being so admitted a member of the Athenæum, shall sign a form of registry by which he binds himself to obey the laws of the Institution.

*Qualification to Vote, and to serve the Offices of the Institution.*

V.—Every member shall be eligible to fill the office of Director, and to vote in the election of Directors, and in other business of the general meetings, who is twenty-one years of age, and who has entered on the fourth quarter's continuous membership of the Athenæum, and who is not in receipt of any salary from the Institution.

*Government.*

VI.—The Athenæum shall be governed by a Board of Directors, annually elected, consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Auditors, an Honorary Secretary, and eighteen other members, who shall, from their own number, at their first sitting, elect a Chairman and Deputy-Chairman, and who shall meet at least once in every month for the dispatch of business—five to be a quorum.

*Power of the Directors.*

VII.—The Directors shall have power to make Bye-laws; to fine or expel any member for misconduct; to admit to life-membership any shareholder who transfers to the Trustees for the benefit of the Institution three or more shares in the building, or any gentleman whose services to the Institution may appear to them to deserve this reward; and they shall have full control over the funds for the purposes of the Institution, and shall remain in office until their successors are appointed.

*Mode of filling Vacancies.*

VIII.—Vacancies occurring in the Direction shall at the next ensuing Board meeting be filled up for the current year by the Directors, from the names remaining on the ballot list of the annual meeting, having at least thirty votes, in the order of the majority of votes; and afterwards from the general list of qualified members. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Auditor, or Honorary Secretary, where

no additional names have been placed on the annual nomination list, the Directors shall fill up such vacancy from the list of qualified members.

*Disqualification for Election.*

IX.—That any and every Director who shall not have attended in the aggregate at least three-fourths of all the meetings of the Board, and of the meetings of the Committee or Committees, held during the year, to which such Director is appointed, shall be ineligible to serve again as Director for the next ensuing year; the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Auditors, and Honorary Secretary excepted; and Directors chosen as substitutes shall be liable to the operation of this rule only in proportion to the number of Board and Committee meetings held after their appointment.

*Publication of the Names of Members Qualified to Vote.*

X.—A list of members entitled to vote, and eligible to serve as Directors, with a list of the retiring Directors, shall be posted and remain in the Newsroom from the first day of January until the day of election. A list of members qualified to vote shall likewise be posted and remain in the Newsroom one week at least immediately preceding any special general meeting of the members.

*Nomination of Directors.*

XI.—A placard for the insertion of the names of those members proposed as Directors, together with the signature of their proposers and seconders, in their own handwriting, shall be posted and remain in the Newsroom from the 1st of January until the Thursday night immediately preceding the day of election; and no one shall be eligible as a Director unless he shall be duly proposed and seconded by the members qualified to vote.

*Annual Meetings.*

XII.—The annual general meeting of the members shall be held on the last Wednesday in January, to receive the Report of the retiring Directors, with the statement of the Accounts, and to transact the general business of the Institution. Scrutineers shall be appointed by the meeting. The Chairman shall then read the names of the members proposed as Directors, with the names of their proposers and seconders. The election of new Directors shall be by ballot, by the members who are entitled to vote. The voting shall commence at 4 p.m., and terminate at 8 p.m. on the day following the one on which the annual meeting is called. The Scrutineers present shall then cast up the votes,

and declare the result of the election in favour of the specified number of candidates having the majority of votes in their respective offices ; and in case of a tie between two or more, the first proposed shall be chosen.

*Special General Meetings.*

XIII.—A special general meeting of the members shall be called by the Directors whenever they may deem it desirable ; or by the Honorary Secretary, not longer than three weeks after receiving a requisition, stating the business to be submitted to the meeting, addressed to him in writing by ten Directors, or by fifty members qualified to vote ; and no other business shall be entertained at the meeting than that specified in the notice.

*Notices of Annual or Special General Meetings.*

XIV.—A notice of not less than fourteen days shall be given of the annual meeting and of special general meetings, by public advertisement in the Manchester newspapers, and by placards placed in the Athenæum ; and the business to be transacted at such meeting shall be specified in the notice.

*Restrictions as to Regulations and Mode of Voting.*

XV.—No resolution shall be put from the chair at any general meeting of the members or Directors which is at variance with the declared objects of the Institution ; and every question, except that of a change in the Rules, shall be decided by a majority of votes, the Chairman having the casting vote only.

*Alteration of the Rules.*

XVI.—A proposition to alter the Rules of the Athenæum shall only be entertained at an annual or at a special general meeting ; it shall only be entertained if recommended by the Directors, or if the proposition be signed by at least 100 members qualified to vote. A majority of not less than two-thirds of those present who are entitled to vote shall be required to make valid the change.

*Rule in compliance with 6 and 7 Vic., cap. 36.*

XVII.—No dividend, gift, division, or bonus money, shall be made unto or between any of the members or subscribers.

*Actions at Law.*

XVIII.—The Honorary Secretary of the Institution for the time being shall be the person to sue or be sued in any action on behalf of the Institution.

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## BYE-LAWS,

*Made by the Directors in accordance with the 7th Rule, which are to be observed by the Members in compliance with Rule IV.*

### *Members' Tickets.*

1. Annual, half-yearly, and quarterly subscriptions shall take date from the first of every month. The tickets of members are not transferable, and must be produced, if required, on visiting the rooms, or attending any meeting of the Institution; and any person presenting a ticket which has not been regularly granted to him, will be refused admittance, and the ticket will be detained and placed at the disposal of the Directors.

### *Newsroom.*

2. The Newsroom shall be opened each day from a quarter to eight o'clock in the morning until ten at night; but on Sundays it shall be open from half-past twelve until two, and from half-past four until ten o'clock at night.

3. It shall not be lawful for a member to remove any newspaper or periodical from the Newsroom.

4. No member or other person shall be allowed to copy the intelligence received by electric telegraph, without a written order signed by the Secretary, or two Directors.

5. A book shall be kept in the Secretary's office, in which members may write suggestions concerning newspapers and periodicals.

### *Library.*

6. The Library shall be open every day (except Sunday, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and such other days as the Directors shall from time to time determine) from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it shall be closed at 4 p.m.

7. No book shall be admitted into the Library until sanctioned by the Directors.

8. A book shall be kept in the Library, in which members may write suggestions to the Directors as to the choice or purchase of books. Books shall be delivered in the order of application, and no entry shall be renewed unless the book be brought to the Library for that purpose; nor shall any book be renewed if wanted by another member. *No member shall have more than one work out of the Library at the same time.*

9. Any person taking a work out of the Library on behalf of a member shall produce his ticket of membership or his authority in writing.

10. Any person engaging a work shall pay a penny to the Librarian, who will advise him by letter when the engaged work



has been received into the Library; or, if preferred, the work will be sent to the member's address, provided the distance be not greater than one mile from the Institution; the books to be signed for on delivery. No member shall be allowed to engage more than one work at a time.

11. No periodical shall be allowed to circulate among the members until after the next issue thereof shall have been placed upon the tables of the Newsroom.

12. No member shall lend a book out of his own house.

13. The time for reading the books shall be fixed by the Library Committee, who shall give instructions to the Librarian or his assistant to specify the time allowed in or upon all books issued; and no book shall be kept longer than the time fixed, under a penalty of one penny per day.

14. The Librarian shall refuse books to members who have not returned those previously supplied to them, or whose fines are unpaid.

15. All fines shall be *strictly enforced*, and a return made monthly to the Library Committee of fines one month or upwards in arrear.

16. If a book be damaged or lost by a member, the Directors shall determine the amount of injury; and until such amount be paid, the member shall lose the privileges of the Institution. If the book be one of a set, he shall replace the whole if required.

17. Such books as the Directors may consider too valuable to circulate indiscriminately, or as shall be marked thus (\*) in the Catalogue, shall not be lent out except by special written order from a Director, the Secretary, or from two annual or life members qualified to vote.

18. There shall be placed in the Library a catalogue of the books, and lists of such books as may be added subsequently to the printing of the last catalogue.

19. In order that the Directors may annually inspect the state of the Library, all books shall be brought in on or before such day as the Directors may appoint, under a penalty of 2d. per volume for every day they may be detained beyond the day fixed.

20. A register shall be kept, in which the number of every volume taken from the Library shall be entered, together with the name of the member taking it, *the number of his or her ticket*, and the dates when borrowed and when returned.

#### *Strangers.*

21. Members shall have the privilege of introducing strangers into the Newsroom for any period not exceeding fourteen days, provided the name of every such stranger be entered in the book kept for that purpose, and a pass ticket be obtained, bearing the

signature of the Honorary Secretary or Secretary. No person shall be considered a stranger who resides within 20 miles of the Manchester Exchange.

*Societies, Clubs, and Classes.*

22. The rules and laws of every Society, Club, or Class established in connection with the Athenæum, or any alteration in them, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval, and shall be brought before every newly-elected Board at its first meeting, for confirmation or otherwise. The Chairman of the Board and Honorary Secretary of the Athenæum shall be *ex officio* members of the Committees of all such Societies. Every member of a Society, Club, or Class must be a member of the Athenæum.

23. The Directors of the Athenæum will not be responsible for the debts contracted by any of the Societies, Clubs, or Classes in connection with the Institution; and the Presidents and Honorary Secretaries of such Societies, Clubs, or Classes shall be liable for all the debts incurred during their respective term of office.

24. No Society, Club, or Class in connection with the Institution shall have the power to remove or loan out any of the property belonging to the Society, Club, or Class, without the direct sanction and approval of the Board.

25. The Honorary Secretaries of Clubs and Societies, in attaching their names to advertisements or other documents, shall affix the names of the Societies they represent (*in extenso*) immediately after their signatures.

*Games.*

26. The games of Billiards, Chess, and Draughts may be played in the Institution; but no games of Chance or Hazard shall on any account be permitted.

*Annual Election of Directors.*

27. That the method of voting by ballot, and all the arrangements and regulations in connection therewith, shall be within the discretion of the General Arrangements Committee, acting from time to time under the confirmation of a resolution of the Board.

*Representing the Athenæum in Public.*

28. No member of the Athenæum shall announce himself in public as acting on behalf of, or representing the Athenæum, or any of its Societies, Clubs, or Classes, without obtaining the special permission of the Board of Directors.

*No Profits to be made by Directors.*

29. No Director of the Athenæum shall derive any profit or pecuniary interest from the supply of any article to the Institution.

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## STANDING ORDERS,

*Adopted by the Board of Directors, February, 1875.*

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I.—That every Sub-Committee, at its first meeting, shall appoint its own Chairman; and that all the Committees be required to keep minutes of their respective proceedings, which shall be open to the inspection of the Directors.

II.—That the Honorary Secretary and the Chairman of the Directors shall be *ex-officio* members of all Sub-Committees. That the Treasurer and Auditors shall be *ex-officio* members of the Finance Committee.

III.—That any member, except the *ex-officio* members of the Committee, who shall neglect to attend three successive ordinary meetings of any Sub-Committee, shall be disqualified from attendance thereon; and that when the members of any Sub-Committee shall be thus reduced to three (exclusive of the *ex-officio* members), the Board of Directors may appoint other members to supply the vacancies.

IV.—That three members shall constitute a quorum of any Sub-Committee.

V.—That all recommendations of Sub-Committees shall receive the sanction of the Board of Directors before they are acted upon, except in cases of emergency, or when the Board has delegated an executive power; and that every resolution of a Sub-Committee, involving an outlay of money, shall be submitted to the Finance Committee before being sanctioned by the Board.

VI.—That at every meeting of the Board of Directors, after the minutes of the last meeting have been read and confirmed (as correctly recorded), reports shall be made by the several Sub-Committees, which shall be disposed of in the order in which they are presented; and no other business (except of a special character) shall be transacted until all the reports of Sub-Committees have been disposed of.

VII.—That no principle of government of the Institution shall be changed, or other important extraordinary business transacted, unless notice thereof shall have been given two days previously in the circulars convening the meeting.

VIII.—That the order for all articles required by the Athenæum, by the Board of Directors or Sub-Committees, shall be issued from the office, upon a printed form prepared for the purpose, with a counterpart, and authenticated by the signature of the Honorary Secretary or Secretary.

IX.—That the names of the proposers and seconders of every resolution be entered upon the minutes; and if the mover and seconder of a motion or amendment which has not been carried shall wish the same to be entered upon the minutes, it shall be so entered.]

X.—That the accounts of the Institution shall be audited by the respective Committees from which the orders have been issued, previously to their being passed by the Finance Committee.

XI.—That all notices of motion shall be entered in a book kept for that purpose in the Secretary's Office, which book shall be open to the inspection of every Director, and shall contain the suggestions from the Directors to the several Committees,—the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Institution, and the Standing Orders of the Board,—the duties of the Officers of the Institution,—a list of the Permanent and Special Committees, with their instructions and powers,—a classified return of the gross number of Members' Tickets issued every month, and the Rules of every Society, Club, and Class in connection with the Athenæum.

XII.—That motions of which due notice has been given shall have precedence over other motions, and shall be submitted to the Board (after the usual routine business has been disposed of) in the order in which the notices have been given.

XIII.—That whenever amendments are made upon original propositions, no second amendment shall be moved or taken into consideration until the first amendment shall have been disposed of.

XIV.—That if a first amendment be carried, it displaces the original question, and becomes itself the question, whereupon any further amendment may be moved.

XV.—That if the first amendment be rejected, then a second may be moved to the original question under consideration; but only one amendment shall be submitted to the Board for discussion at a time.

XVI.—That the mover of every original resolution, but not of any amendment, shall have a right to reply; immediately after which the question shall be put from the chair; but that no other member be allowed to speak more than once on the same question, unless permission be given to explain, or the attention of the chair be called to a point of order.

XVII.—That the names not only of the persons *present* at the Board and Committee Meetings, but also of those members of the Board and Committee who may be *absent*, shall be recorded on the minutes of the Board and the respective Committees.

XVIII.—That the following resolution be read at every Board meeting before the passing of the minutes of the Finance Committee :—" That a general balance-sheet shall be rendered to the Board at the close of every quarter of the year; and that no fresh liability whatever be created, except so far as the then last balance-sheet shall show a surplus of income over expenditure, or the receipts of the current quarter shall furnish funds sufficient to meet, in addition to the ordinary permanent expenses."

XIX.—That the Honorary Secretary shall be Chairman, and the Chairman of the Library and Newsroom, the House, the General Arrangements, and the Coffee-room Committees, shall be members of the Finance Committee. That the Chairman of each of the Committees named shall present to the Finance Committee, every month, a return of the expenditure incurred in their respective Committees, and any other statement which may be considered by the Finance Committee to be useful in the maintenance of a strict supervision of the finances of the Institution.

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## MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM.

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The Directors of this Institution beg to call the attention of the public to the following advantages afforded to the members of the Athenæum :—

I.—*The Newsroom*—Supplied with Reuter's Foreign Telegrams, Domestic and Commercial Intelligence, including the Reports of the Liverpool Cotton Market, the London Money and Share Market, and the London Corn Market. An ample supply of news by Electric Telegraph, furnished by the Press Association, is promptly received and posted; and the members are put in possession of the earliest Home, Indian, American, and Foreign Political Intelligence. The room is amply provided with London, Manchester, Liverpool, Provincial, Scotch, Irish, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Dutch, Swiss, Australian, and American Newspapers (*see page 34*); Shipping and Share Lists, Market Letters, and Prices Current; and is also supplied with the most authentic Maps, and with upwards of one hundred copies of the standard Quarterly, Monthly, and Weekly Reviews, Serials, Magazines, and all important Pamphlets. The Newsroom is open from a quarter before 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

II.—*The Library* contains a choice collection of standard and modern works in Literature, Science, Philosophy, and Art. In addition to the permanent collection, the Library is constantly supplied by Mr. Mudie, of London and Manchester, Messrs. Smith and Sons, Manchester, and the United Libraries Company, of London, with many copies of the most popular works of the day, immediately on publication. The Library is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it is closed at 4 p.m.

III.—*The Library of Reference*, containing files of the *Times*, the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Economist*, *Saturday Review*, the *Athenæum*, the *Illustrated London News*, the *Graphic*, *Notes and Queries*, and *Punch*; Encyclopædias; Directories, Metropolitan and Provincial; Dictionaries, in various languages; Commercial, Legal, Historical, Geographical, and Statistical Works, &c.

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